

SC025712

Registered provider: The Together Trust

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a voluntary organisation. The home provides care for up to two children with social and emotional difficulties and learning disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2016.

Inspection date: 29 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 13 December 2022

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector has looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

Findings from this inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The care of children

On 28 March 2023, Ofsted received information that the registered manager, staff and children from this home had moved into another home. The home is owned by the same voluntary organisation, and the move was necessary while their home was being refurbished.

The arrangements for this move were found to be satisfactory. The children will remain at this home, and there are no plans for them to return to their former home.

This inspection was carried out at the children's new home.

The children reported that they were very happy in their new home, which was familiar to them as they had visited and stayed overnight previously. They enjoy a good relationship with the staff, who they said were kind, helpful and very supportive.

All children attend school, and the staff have advocated to ensure that children receive the support and guidance that they need to make progress. One child is on target to achieve good GCSE results. The manager, together with the placing authority, is exploring possible further education opportunities that will meet her needs. The manager has good relationships with the heads of the schools the children attend, which has ensured that in times of crisis, the children have maintained their school places.

The staff have positive working relationships with a range of multi-agency partners who support them in their work and provide immediate support in times of crisis and ongoing guidance to ensure that children's specific needs are met.

Staff support contact arrangements, either by providing supervision or transport.

The safety of children

The manager and staff are managing some difficult, high-risk situations well to ensure that they keep the children safe. Children are always supervised.

Staff understand the children's behaviours and what the triggers are that would put them at risk. These are set out in individual and detailed safety plans.

Since the last inspection, there has been no need to physically hold a child or use any consequences. One child made an allegation that was later retracted. Following

this, the manager has investigated, arranged for additional training for all the staff and contacted the local authority designated officer to discuss the management of any further allegations.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The requirements and recommendations from the last inspection have been met.

The home has more than sufficient staff, as the move has led to the amalgamation of two staff teams. The children and most of the staff will remain at this home.

The quality of the external monitoring visit and report is very good, and the visitor spends time with the children and considers their views, wishes and feelings.

Staff reported that they feel well supported, have access to a range of training opportunities, including the level 3 diploma course, and receive regular reflective supervision to help them in their work.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
13/12/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
06/07/2021	Full	Good
29/10/2019	Full	Good
11/09/2018	Full	Good

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC025712

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: The Together Trust

Registered provider address: The Together Trust Centre, Schools Hill, Cheadle SK8 1JE

Responsible individual: Jill Sheldrake

Registered manager: Lillian Adamson

Inspector

Helen Humphreys, His Majesty's Inspector

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