

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC025713
Inspector	Louise Redfern
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Registered person	The Together Trust
Registered person address	The Together Trust Centre Schools Hill CHEADLE Cheshire SK8 1JE
Responsible individual	Jill Marie Bernadette Sheldrake
Registered manager	Tracey Margaret Sheer
Date of last inspection	18/09/2014

Inspection date	11/02/2015
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Previous inspection	outstanding
Enforcement action since last inspection	none

This inspection

This home was judged outstanding at the last full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has **improved effectiveness**.

The home continues to be managed by a dedicated and consistent management and staff team who are committed to promoting outstanding outcomes for young people. Professionals comment on the high quality of care provided in the home and the bespoke support offered to the young people as individuals and as siblings. The young people's social worker reported, 'I am very happy with the placement, very good work is being undertaken with both boys. They are well supported to meet their individual emotional needs. The boys are moving forward because of consistent boundaries and realistic expectations.'

Care planning continues to be highly individualised and child-centred. Staff and young people have developed strong relationships, built on trust, consistent practice, routines and boundaries.

Young people continue to make exceptional progress in education. Young people regularly achieve 100% attendance. They have successfully made the transition into high school and maintained a work placement. One young person has developed and sustained peer friendships at school. As a result they have enjoyed a school weekend residential trip and time away from the home at their friends' homes, which is a significant achievement, given the young person's previous reluctance to independently spend time away from the home.

Young people are developing independent living skills at a pace that they are comfortable with. As a result, their confidence has grown. Young people now receive their allowance direct into their banks. This means they are learning valuable life skills around budgeting and the responsibility of using a bank card.

Since the last inspection, young people have displayed some unsettled behaviour. This has resulted in a slight increase in the number of physical restraints. These

restraints have all been carried out to prevent injury to young people and/or staff. However, the Registered Manager has not reported on the effectiveness of each physical restraint. This is a missed opportunity to review the measure. There has been no impact on young people as they have been supported through individual and group sessions to explore the incidents and review triggers for the behaviour.

The Registered Manager continues to lead by example and promotes a good quality of care. She has a good understanding of the homes strengths and weaknesses and is proactive in securing improvements. Individual staff members feel well supported and say, 'it's brilliant working here, I love my job. I feel very well supported by managers and colleagues on shift.'

The Registered Manager develops and maintains strong and effective links between agencies to ensure positive outcomes for young people are achieved. For example, since the last inspection local police officers have met with the young people to talk about risks associated with child sexual exploitation. This supports young people to develop an understanding of the risks and develop strategies to keep themselves safe, both now and in the future when they move on from the home.

Since the last inspection, improvements to the internal décor of the home have been secured including a new bathroom suite. Young people have had a significant input in the décor changes. One young person commented, 'the bathroom was my choice, I always help with choosing the way my home is decorated.'

Information about this children's home

The children's home is owned and operated by a voluntary organisation. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for two young people with behavioural and emotional difficulties and or learning disabilities.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
18/09/2014	Full	outstanding
25/02/2014	Interim	good progress
25/09/2013	Full	good
22/01/2013	Interim	good progress

What does the children's home need to do to improve further?

Statutory Requirements

This section sets out the actions which must be taken so that the registered person/s meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and the National Minimum Standards. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

Reg.	Requirement	Due date
17B (2001)	ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control a written record is made which shall include the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 17b (3)(f))	06/03/2015

What inspection judgements mean

At the interim inspections we make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness, or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection. This is in line with the *Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection*.

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the main strengths, any areas for improvement, including any breaches of regulation, and any failure to meet national minimum standards. The judgements included in the report are made against the framework of inspection for children's homes.