

## Children's homes - interim inspection

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b>           | <b>17/02/2016</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Unique reference number</b>   | <b>SC025713</b>                                                                    |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>        | <b>Interim</b>                                                                     |
| <b>Provision subtype</b>         | <b>Children's home</b>                                                             |
| <b>Registered person</b>         | <b>The Together Trust</b>                                                          |
| <b>Registered person address</b> | <b>The Together Trust Centre,<br/>Schools Hill, Cheadle,<br/>Cheshire, SK8 1JE</b> |

|                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Responsible individual</b> | <b>Jill Sheldrake</b> |
| <b>Registered manager</b>     | <b>Tracey Sheer</b>   |
| <b>Inspector</b>              | <b>Louise Redfern</b> |

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| <b>Inspection date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>17/02/2016</b>  |
| <b>Previous inspection judgement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Outstanding</b> |
| <b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>None</b>        |
| <b>This inspection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                    |
| <p><b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b></p> <p>This home was judged <b>Outstanding</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>sustained effectiveness</b>.</p> <p>Young people continue to thrive in this placement; they are very well supported by a consistent staff team who know the young people very well. They are encouraged to develop their relationships as brothers in an appropriate and safe environment. Their parent commented: 'the children are very well looked after by the staff who really care for them. I am over the moon about how well they are cared for.'</p> <p>The manager and staff team have clear expectations that young people will attend and achieve educationally, consequently over time in the home young people have accepted this as a daily expectation and part of their routines. This has resulted in young people making exceptional progress from their individual starting points. They are sustaining excellent attendance levels and are fully engaged in their learning environments. The whole staff team celebrate the progress young people make and comment how proud they are of their individual achievements.</p> <p>Young people are being prepared to move on from the home into adulthood. They continue to manage their individual allowances, which are paid directly into their bank accounts. This promotes a greater understanding of budgeting and managing a bank account. They are starting to look at future housing options and are working closely with individual keyworkers to ensure they are as prepared as possible for all aspects of independent living.</p> <p>As a celebration of the progress young people make one young person requested a holiday abroad with their keyworker. They were part of the planning and budgeting of the holiday to again, support and develop their independence skills. These experiences cement positive relationships and create memories of their time at the home.</p> <p>The manager and staff team are passionate about securing positive outcomes for young people; they advocate on their behalf and ensure that the local authority are very well aware of the young people's individual views and wishes. This develops positive and trusting relationships between young people, staff members and</p> |                    |

parents. Consequently young people feel they are listened to.

The manager now has a development plan, this sets out the vision for the next twelve months. The manager and the staff team have clear targets and objectives to drive improvement in the of quality care provided in the home. The manager reviews the plan to ensure continuous development and progress.

At the last inspection a shortfall was identified concerning the lack of evaluation as part of the manager's monitoring report. The organisation has now made changes to the reporting format. However, the manager has not yet implemented these changes. As a result the requirement is re-stated. There continues to be limited impact on the young people, given the high standard of care provided and the exceptional outcomes being achieved by them.

The small but consistent staff team remain in place, supporting young people to continue to make excellent progress. Staff report that they feel well supported by the management team and participate in regular supervision and team meetings. The manager ensures regular team days take place, which also include young people. This builds and sustains positive relationships away from the home, enjoying fun activities. One member of staff commented: 'this is the best place I have worked, the boys are settled and we are all working together to support them.'

## 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   |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 10/11/2015      | CH - Full       | Outstanding            |
| 11/02/2015      | CH - Interim    | improved effectiveness |
| 18/09/2014      | CH - Full       | Outstanding            |
| 25/02/2014      | CH - Interim    | Good Progress          |

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

### 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 (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*. The registered person(s) must comply with the given timescales.

| Requirement                                                                                                                          | Due date   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Ensure that the registered person establishes a system which evaluates the quality of care provided for children (Regulation 45 (2)) | 31/03/2016 |

## **What the inspection judgements mean**

At the interim inspection 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**

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

This 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 Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the *Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards*.

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