

SC025747

Registered provider: Together Trust

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is managed by a charitable organisation. It provides care for up to 3 children who experience social and emotional difficulties and/or have special educational needs.

At the time of this inspection, 3 children were living in the home. The inspector spoke with all the children.

The registered manager has been in post since November 2015.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 June 2026

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 20 August 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: Since the last full inspection, an assurance inspection took place at the home on 10 December 2025. The inspector identified no serious and/or widespread concerns at this assurance inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
20/08/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
01/10/2024	Full	Good
20/02/2024	Full	Good
01/02/2023	Full	Good

Summary of findings

Since the last inspection, there have been several changes at the home, including 3 children moving in and one child moving out. Staff planned these moves carefully, resulting in positive experiences for children. Children are making progress as a direct result of the care provided by staff. Children report being happy in the home and have meaningful and trusting relationships with staff. Recording is a key shortfall identified during this inspection.

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have meaningful and trusting relationships with staff. They can identify trusted adults and say that they are happy living in the home. Children enjoy various activities with staff inside and outside the home. They are encouraged to pursue and attend their chosen hobbies and clubs. As a result, children are making meaningful childhood memories.

Children's health needs are understood and supported by staff. Staff advocate strongly on children's behalf to ensure that they receive the appropriate care from external health professionals. This includes leaders and managers escalating their concerns when they feel that children's needs are not being met effectively. As a result, children have no unmet health needs.

Education for children is well supported by staff. Children attend education regularly and are making progress. For one child whose future education is uncertain, leading to increasing anxiety for the child, the manager is working alongside external professionals to find a solution that meets the child's needs. This includes advocating strongly on their behalf, escalating concerns appropriately and supporting family members to visit educational provisions to identify the right setting for the child.

Children are encouraged to maintain contact with people who are important to them. Professionals describe staff going 'above and beyond' to ensure that this time meets the needs of each child. This includes supporting in re-establishing family relationships and supporting family members where needed. As a result, children are safely spending good-quality time with family members.

Children are provided with a warm and homely environment. The home is appropriately furnished and designed to meet children's needs. There are photos of the children throughout the home, and it feels like a family home. Children are supported by staff to personalise their bedrooms according to their individual preferences.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Staff have a good understanding of children's needs and the risks they may face. Practice is supported by detailed plans with guidance for staff to follow. Staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and thresholds for sharing information. They demonstrate confidence in actions they should take in the event of safeguarding concerns arising to protect children.

When complaints occur, the manager is proactive in their response, informs relevant safeguarding professionals and takes immediate action to protect children. Complaints are managed effectively, with clear rationale for decision-making.

There have been no incidents of children going missing from the home. Where appropriate, children are supported to spend time independently in the community. Children maintain contact with staff and understand how to stay safe.

Children experience difficulties managing their emotions. They have been involved in creating effective strategies to communicate their feelings with staff and help to reduce stresses during periods of crisis. Staff help children to understand difficult emotions and are providing positive strategies to manage these. Effective planning is in place to support children during significant life changes, including home moves, to reduce the likelihood of disruption to their progress.

Staff carry out direct work with children to help them understand how to stay safe and develop important life skills. However, the quality of this work is inconsistent. Staff do not always tailor it to children's individual needs or use creative approaches to support understanding. Leaders and managers are actively addressing this shortfall, with progress slowly being made.

Staff use rewards, de-escalation techniques and distraction to encourage positive behaviour. On 3 occasions, staff have physically held children. When physical interventions occur, the level of scrutiny by leaders and managers is inconsistent. As a result, it is not always possible to determine whether all holds are necessary and proportionate. This increases the risk that children may be held by staff when it is not required.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The registered manager is experienced and demonstrates a child-centred approach. She has a clear understanding of children's needs. When 2 children moved within the organisation, leaders and managers worked effectively to ensure that staff understood each child's needs before the move. This included detailed planning and discussion to minimise disruption and support continued progress.

Effective multi-agency working is in place. Professionals describe the care provided by staff as 'proactive' and 'supportive'. Professionals say that communication with staff is

positive and that they are kept well informed of children's care and progress. An independent reviewing officer said, 'Of all the homes I work with, they are the one I am most happy with; I cannot fault them, they really do go above and beyond.'

Staff receive regular supervision. These sessions provide opportunities for staff to reflect on their care of the children and discuss their practice. Any shortfalls identified in staff practice are addressed appropriately.

Staff receive regular training, including specific courses and workshops to meet children's individual needs. The manager delivers additional training and workshops during team meetings and tests staff's safeguarding knowledge using practice-based scenarios and quizzes.

Staff say they enjoy their roles and feel well supported by leaders and managers. Staff describe 'loving' their jobs and demonstrate genuine care and affection towards the children. Staff describe leaders and managers as 'present' and 'approachable'. The team is passionate about providing high-quality care for children.

Shortfalls in record-keeping have been identified during this inspection. There is a lack of consistency in the quality of record-keeping. This limits the ability to fully capture children's experiences and progress.

Leaders and managers ensure that an independent person visits the home regularly to assess the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. However, on one occasion, the report was not shared with the regulator. This restricts Ofsted's ability to undertake effective external scrutiny.

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

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The 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 within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes— a description of the measure and its duration; details of any methods used or steps taken to avoid the need to use the measure; and the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure. (Regulation 35 (1)(a)(b) (3)(a)(iv)(v)(vii))	3 July 2026
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children's records are detailed, meaningful and of good quality.	3 July 2026

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that an independent person carries out visits to the home and makes a rigorous and impartial assessment of the arrangements for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare. The registered person should ensure that the report of these visits is sent to Ofsted in a timely manner. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 65, paragraph 15.5)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This 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'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC025747

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Together Trust

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

Responsible individual: Sara Aldridge

Registered manager: Lillian Adamson

Inspector

Leanne Carr, Social Care Inspector

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