

## Children's homes - interim inspection

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| <b>Inspection date</b>           | <b>04/02/2016</b>  |
| <b>Unique reference number</b>   | <b>SC057718</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>Carmel Perry</b>   |
| <b>Inspector</b>              | <b>Rebecca Qusted</b> |

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Inspection date</b>  | <b>04/02/2016</b>  |
| <b>Previous inspection judgement</b>  | <b>Outstanding</b> |
| <b>Enforcement action since last inspection</b>   | <b>None</b>        |
| <b>This inspection</b>  |                    |
| <b>The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection</b>  |                    |
| <p>This home was judged <b>Outstanding</b> at the full inspection. At this interim inspection Ofsted judge that it has <b>declined in effectiveness</b>.</p>  |                    |
| <p>Since the last inspection young people have continued to make progress despite a number of shortfalls. The registered manager has not ensured that the home is arranged and maintained to safeguard and promote young people's well-being. She has not ensured that all visitors to the home have their identity checked before entering the home. This does not protect young people from unsuitable people, who may pose a risk to them, from entering the home. The registered manager has not ensured that any damage to the home is quickly and regularly repaired and consequently the physical environment does not reflect the high standard of nurturing care provided to young people.</p> <p>Young people do not benefit from robust arrangements for the administration of medicines. Staff do not follow procedures to ensure that medicines are administered correctly. This has resulted in medication being wrongly administered and systems in place to verify correct administration have also failed. The registered manager has identified that monitoring equipment is necessary at night to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people. However, she has not ensured that she has obtained written consent from placing authorities to use this. As a result young people's privacy is compromised without appropriate authorisation.</p> <p>Young people continue to make exceptional progress from their starting points. Staff have a detailed understanding of each young person which allows them to provide highly personalised care. They develop risk assessments which describe very specific responses to young people. Staff are skilled in supporting young people to develop self-regulation through consistently promoting positive behaviour. As a result young people are rarely restrained and when they are the registered manager and staff monitor the effectiveness to improve the quality of care provided.</p> <p>Staff develop positive relationships with young people. They ensure that young people are involved in decision-making through key working sessions and young people's meetings. Staff take time to understand young people and their ways of</p> |                    |

communicating through speech, pointing and their behaviour. Consequently young people appear happy as staff understand their needs and wishes. One family member said: 'Staff can read him like a book....he is cared for as well as cared about. He has blossomed and is happy, he runs to the door when we bring him back.'

Young people are making good progress with education. Some young people have transitioned into different educational provision successfully. Staff are proactive in engaging with each young person's school to ensure that they receive consistent care. Staff ensure that young people maximise their opportunities to be independent. For example, they encourage them to make their own food choices, put their cereal in the bowl and clear their dishes away.

Staff promote contact between young people and their families where that is safe and in their best interests. They welcome families into the home. One family member said: 'We are always made welcome, there is a warmth in the care that staff provide.' Staff encourage young people to engage in activities in the community where they have the opportunity to try new things as well as taking part in their particular interests such as swimming or going to youth groups. This promotes young people's social interaction and self-confidence.

Young people do not go missing from home. Staff understand what to do if they did and have developed positive relationships with the local police officer so that they remain aware of any risks in the local community. Staff understand how to implement child protection policies and whistle-blowing policies so that any allegations are investigated promptly. This safeguards young people.

The registered manager regularly monitors the quality of care provided and has ensured that the recommendation from the previous inspection has been met. She ensures that staff are well trained and supported. They benefit from specific training which reflects the individual young people's needs. For example, staff work in partnership with the child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) who provide bespoke training regarding the sensory needs of young people with autism. Staff provide excellent care as a result which leads to young people making exceptional progress. One family member commented: 'He has made tremendous progress. They know his behaviours well and provide him with the care he needs. They are the only ones who have managed him.'

## Information about this children's home

The children's home is one of a number of homes operated by a charitable trust. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for up to five young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, physical disabilities and learning disabilities.

## Recent inspection history

| Inspection date | Inspection type | Inspection judgement    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 12/05/2015      | CH - Full       | Outstanding             |
| 21/01/2015      | CH - Interim    | Sustained effectiveness |
| 12/09/2014      | CH - Full       | Outstanding             |
| 24/01/2014      | CH - Interim    | Satisfactory 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   |
|---|------------|
| <p>12: The protection of children standard</p> <p>In order to meet the protection of children standard the registered provider must ensure that:-</p> <p>2 (b) the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm.</p> <p>(d) the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health.</p> | 07/03/2016 |
| The registered person must ensure that medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed. (Regulation 23(2)(b))   | 07/03/2016 |
| The registered person may only use devices for the monitoring or surveillance of children if the child's placing authority consents in writing to the monitoring or surveillance. (Regulation 24(1)(b))   | 07/03/2016 |

## **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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