

TOGETHER

# a year together

2020 - 2021

**TOGETHER  
TRUST**

Registered charity number 209782



This year our annual review is introduced by a family we support.

Fliss has been supported by Newbridge, one of the Trust's adult day services in Stockport, for over 9 years. This year has been very different for Fliss and her family.

“ Lockdown is a word that sends a chill down most people's spines. But when your daughter relies so heavily on a structured week, your mind goes into overdrive as to how you will cope.

Almost immediately after lockdown was announced in March 2020 the Together Trust phoned with the sad news that Fliss would not be able to attend Newbridge on her usual days. However rather than this ending support from the Trust, they simply adapted it for the environment. This included regular phone calls from the Trust each week for a chat with Fliss which brought huge smiles to her face, and an assurance that these friends still cared.

Over the year the Together Trust was able to offer more as restrictions eased. By following the guidelines, meeting for walks became an option and eventually Fliss returned to Newbridge itself.

The team there has been wonderful. No question of ours has ever been too silly and we've never been made to feel uncomfortable about our fears. The Together Trust don't only support our daughter, they are like our extended family!

Thank you Together Trust,  
**Neale, Fliss' Dad**



**Fliss, Heather and Neale Hayward-Shott**

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## Who we are

### We are the Together Trust

For over 150 years we've been championing and caring for people with disabilities, autism and complex health needs. And providing life-changing care and support for looked-after children and care-experienced people.

Today we're one of the North West's leading disability, education and care charities. We help children, adults, parents and carers, delivering individual care, support and education to thousands of people and their families each year.



Who we are

## Our mission

To champion the rights, needs and ambitions of the people we support – they are at the heart of everything we do. We stand by them and we work together for change

Together we

→ care

learn ←

→ support

grow ←

## Our values

### Positive

We take pride in celebrating the difference we make

### Professional

We act in a fair and respectable way that recognises our collective expertise

### Passionate

We encourage creative ideas and inspire one another

### Supportive

We are considerate and caring towards one another

## Our vision

A society where people thrive because they are valued within their communities





What  
we do

## What we do

### Everyone deserves to lead a happy life – together, we make that possible.

At the Together Trust, we deliver individual care, support and education services across the North West.

### Everyone deserves a place to call home

Whether that's a place to call your own, somewhere to rest and recharge or get stability and support. We're proud to offer warm and nurturing homes for children, young people and adults. We help them grow their independence and shape their own story. All while regaining a sense of belonging.

Find out more about our caring homes at [togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes](https://togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes)



## Specialist learning environments

We support children and young people from age 5 all the way to 25 with individual learning plans.

Head to [togethertrust.org.uk/education](https://togethertrust.org.uk/education) to find out more about Bridge College, Inscape House School and Ashcroft School and College.

Ashcroft  
School

Bridge  
College

Inscape  
House  
School

## Be brave, be brilliant, be a foster carer

We've been growing our foster family for over 20 years. If you've got a passion for helping young people succeed, you could be a Together Trust foster carer.

If you are interested in joining our fostering family, visit [togethertrust.org.uk/fostering](https://togethertrust.org.uk/fostering)





## What we do



### Family support

We've helped a lot of families over the years, and we know that every family is different. Our support includes Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Mediation services and autism sleep clinics.

Find out more about how we help families thrive at [togethertrust.org.uk/helping-families](https://togethertrust.org.uk/helping-families)

### Community support

We put our services at the heart of local communities, whether that's helping adults to live independently, or creating spaces for young people to learn, work and play.

Find out how we help people be valued within their communities at [togethertrust.org.uk/community-support](https://togethertrust.org.uk/community-support)



### Therapy and specialist support

Our experienced multi disciplinary team offer a wide range of therapy and training programmes. These are available to professionals, and to children and young people. We work in a variety of settings offering support that is tailored to the individual. We also offer advice for the wider community in which the people we support live and learn. Our team can provide assessments, 1:1 and group therapy, support programmes and written reports.

Find out more at [togethertrust.org.uk/therapy-and-specialist-support](https://togethertrust.org.uk/therapy-and-specialist-support)



### Campaigning

We work alongside the people we support to create change and make sure their voice is heard.

Find out where we stand at [togethertrust.org.uk/campaigning](https://togethertrust.org.uk/campaigning)

# Together we care

we work in collaboration and are  
dedicated to our mission and vision

Jenny is a registered manager at Pearce Lodge, our residential home in Stockport that supports disabled adults and people with complex health needs.

Jenny has worked at the Together Trust for over 17 years and had never experienced anything like the COVID-19 pandemic in her career.

**We weren't just isolating from the world, we were isolating from the rest of the house.** As we were working with clinically vulnerable people, we were required to wear full PPE including respiration masks, visors, gloves, and gowns. This became very cumbersome and stifling in the heat and made communication more difficult.



“When all visiting stopped, we were worried it could potentially negatively impact our residents’ mental health, so we had to get creative. **We introduced tablets to communicate, family newsletters, shared daily diaries, installed sensory equipment and made plenty of zoom calls.** As the weather improved the garden was sectioned off so the people we support could enjoy outside and window visits were introduced.

The wellbeing of some residents improved during lockdown. Their stress was reduced because they had fewer demands placed on them, clearer routines every day and fewer transitions.”

**Looking back, I feel very lucky to have had such great support from my colleagues, the Together Trust and our local authority. It has brought our team closer together and I have learnt new ways to support our clients that will help develop their individual plans in the future.**

# Together we learn

so that our services adapt and evolve

James is in his twenties and has severe learning disabilities, profound autism and is non-verbal. He has been in supported accommodation at the Together Trust for 9 months.

We spoke to his dad Steve about the transition from home to supported living.

“

It was getting harder and harder to look after James. As a parent you feel responsible and believe that you are the best person to give care.

I was faced with the prospect of James being sectioned and hospitalised. I knew that if he could have a home and care team around him he would thrive. Luckily the Salford social work team felt the same.

”





**“The social work team contacted the Together Trust due to their reputation for delivering amazing person-centred care.** However, they didn’t have any specific service available that was right for James. After meeting and consulting with me they quickly pulled together a service specially tailored for James’ needs.

When James first went to the Trust it took me at least 6 months to get used to the idea of not having him around. I went through the feelings of guilt that

I had let my son down and not done enough for him as a father. I couldn’t sleep at night as I would wake up at any noise thinking my son needed me. It was at this point that I realised I hadn’t had a proper night’s sleep for 12 years.

**After 9 months I am happier than I have ever been in my life thanks to the Together Trust.** I am proud of my son James and how he has coped with the huge change and delighted at how happy he is with his Together Trust carers which is incredibly reassuring for me as his dad. I am now content that I have done the best thing for my son.”

**He is much happier and is getting support to help him to do more things and be much more a part of his community. For the first time in my life, I feel like an ordinary person and a normal dad. I can never thank the Together Trust enough. They understood the situation from the start and have extremely experienced staff who are understanding and patient. Their knowledge means that they offer advice but also listen and welcome advice from me. I can phone them anytime if I need to and someone will always pick up the phone and help.**

# Together we achieve

we work alongside the people we support  
to help them influence government policy

Marie spoke to us about her time in unregulated accommodation to help us challenge a discriminatory change to secondary legislation that has removed a guarantee of care for children in care aged 16 and 17.

I was in and out of emergency placements because they couldn't find anywhere to place me, so my social worker took me to a caravan in Preston. They called it a crisis placement, but it was unregulated accommodation. She said I would be there for 28 days, but I was there for 12 weeks and 3 days. The whole time I didn't see any of my friends, I didn't go to school, I didn't see anyone. It was very emotional. Every night the staff would sit there for about an hour trying to stop me from crying because of how upsetting it was.



“Thankfully Ian and Debbie from the Together Trust came to see me when I was in the caravan and told me I could have a place in one of the Together Trust’s children’s homes if I wanted. It was the best thing that happened to me. **They have helped and supported me these past two years and made me who I am, and I couldn’t be more grateful to have lived here.**

I faced pressure from the local authority to move back into unregulated accommodation when I was coming up to my 17th birthday. This was in the middle of the pandemic and when I didn’t have a support network. I knew I wasn’t ready and thankfully the staff at Together Trust supported me to challenge it.

We’re taken off our parents and we’re supposed to be cared for but it feels like they’re avoiding that responsibility when they try to put us in unregulated accommodation. It’s like they think we can just fend for ourselves and it’s not right.”

**Over 6,000 children in England already live in places where they don’t receive any care. This number is now likely to increase.**

**All children in care deserve the same love, stability and safety a family would provide.**

**We are challenging this age-based discrimination, will you join us in our fight?**

**[secure.togethertrust.org.uk/uk-government-keep-caring](https://secure.togethertrust.org.uk/uk-government-keep-caring)**

Together we

grow

organically and sustainably

Kyran is 13 years old and has been a student at Ashcroft School since May last year. As well as thriving in his new educational environment, Kyran has also quickly become a strong advocate for the Together Trust outside of school.

**“ Before I came to Ashcroft I wasn’t the best behaved and didn’t pay much attention when I was in lessons.**

That’s all changed now because of how they do lessons at Ashcroft. The teachers take time to learn how you like to learn and create lessons to help keep your attention and get your work done. Some of the other schools I’ve been to weren’t like that. Coming here has really helped me and calmed me down a lot.

”





grow

"I've been really enjoying ICT where we have been learning different types of coding and I've been doing my iDEA (inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) which is a bit like a digital Duke of Edinburgh award where we learn about the uses of coding, ICT and digital literacy and there are some marketing and business elements. **It's great that I'm able to do things like this at Ashcroft based on my ability and I'm not restricted by my age, like I have been before.**

I was asked last year to help out with some interviews they were doing for a Participation Officer role. We did some group interviews where I asked some questions to the applicants and also answered some questions they had about the Together Trust; I really enjoy that sort of stuff so it was great. I felt really proud that I was involved in the interviews and could help out in something outside of Ashcroft."

**I was asked by Mark Lee, Together Trust's Chief Executive, to be filmed answering some questions about how Ashcroft has helped me. It went really well and it was great to hear that it helped the Trust win the award! I was pleased to be able to help after the charity has helped me so much. I would definitely do it again.**

# Our volunteers

In addition to our trustees and governors, other volunteers have been getting more involved over the past year, helping us and the people we support in a wide variety of activities. In six months alone, they have given almost **450 hours of their time** and made a difference across the charity.

## History and heritage

Recording oral histories with our care leavers.



## Residential care

Volunteer artists visited our care homes.



## Fundraising

Provided vital support in a difficult year for our campaigns.



## Colleague wellbeing

Online crafting sessions thanks to our volunteer sewing expert.



## Family support

Volunteer support in our Sleep Service and SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information Advice & Support Service).



## Gardening and horticulture

Green fingered volunteers helped develop our gardens and outdoor space.



## Our volunteers listed what they loved about it :

Enjoying spending time with the people we support and seeing their achievements

Having a sense of achievement/purpose

Social interaction

Gaining useful experience

“ It sounds cheesy... but making a bit of a difference for someone, providing new experiences and socialisation. And just having fun as well – the boy who I work with is so sweet and so much fun to work with so yeah, it’s really nice... it’s good fun! ”

“ It’s helped me understand more [about] working collaboratively with disabled people. ”

We are immensely proud of our volunteers and grateful to them for all the time and energy they give. We look forward to involving even more of them in the year ahead!

## Our supporters

Here we share the views from three of the many supporters and organisations that have helped us this year.

### Vernon

The Vernon Building Society's Christmas Toy Appeal 2020 in partnership with Imagine Radio raised an incredible £6,000 to help children supported by the Together Trust. Tanasè Rivers, head of marketing, brand and culture at Vernon, said: **"We have a long-standing and rewarding relationship with Together Trust as part of our community programme and we love working with this fantastic local charity."**



### Brunel

Brunel supported the Together Trust this year through their International Young Inventors competition. Young people from Ashcroft School have won first and second place in the competition securing prizes worth £350 and a donation of £500 for the school.

Oliver Hague from Brunel International said: **"Taking part in a competition like this is important primarily because it's about young people's future."**

### Booths

Booths in Hale Barns chose to support Together Trust by taking on the Captain Tom 100 challenge and fundraising outside the store.

Gail, a member of the team at Booths, is also a foster carer with the Together Trust and expressed the difference the money raised could make for young people in foster care: **"The Covid-19 pandemic has made it a really difficult year for young people in foster care and the foster carers themselves. It will be great to put the money raised towards a great day out for all the young people and families to give them a well-deserved fun day at the beach."**





## Ways your business can support us



### Corporate social responsibility

You will be fully supported to fulfil your CSR as a business in your community while boosting staff morale and improving staff retention.

### Staff volunteering

Volunteering days supporting our services or fundraising efforts. Could you provide staff for the day to help with a supermarket collection? Or to help at an event?

### Provide work placements

It's crucial that we provide enriching experiences for the people we support and we can achieve this by working in partnership with businesses. Could you support us by offering a young person work experience for just one hour per week?

Students are risk assessed and fully supported by trained staff to fulfil their work experience and can provide an invaluable contribution to your workplace. Key areas of interest for our students include catering and hospitality, construction, IT, and retail, however work experience across any industry can be considered.



### Guest speaker

Come and speak to our students, talking about an aspect of your business or career path. These can be arranged face to face or virtually and provide students with crucial insight into the world of work.



# Future plans

Our workforce and the people and families we support are shaping our future plans.

We are focusing on key five themes ↓

1

Our place based, integrated services deliver high quality, person centred support. We adapt and evolve to meet the life-long changing needs of people and families.



2

We are a trusted partner – we empower people to make positive progress to influence our service development, future policy and provision.

3

We grow organically and sustainably to meet changing needs. We aim to demonstrate our social, environmental and economic value from everything we do.

4

Our diverse, skilled and motivated workforce treat people equitably and inclusively, they have clear learning and development opportunities. We listen to our workforce and work with our Staff Council to ensure effective engagement.

5

We will always be dedicated to helping those in need; we work collaboratively and live our values.



*Mark Lee*  
**Mark Lee**  
Chief Executive



*Giles Gaddum*  
**Giles Gaddum**  
Chair of the  
Board of Trustees

To read our latest news, see what events we have coming up or to see our job and volunteering opportunities, visit [togethertrust.org.uk](https://togethertrust.org.uk)

Our latest Report and Accounts is available via the Together Trust website at: [togethertrust.org.uk/charity-information](https://togethertrust.org.uk/charity-information)

A digital copy of this publication can be downloaded at [togethertrust.org.uk/what-we-do](https://togethertrust.org.uk/what-we-do)

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0161 283 4848  
[enquiries@togethertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@togethertrust.org.uk)

**Together Trust**, Together Trust Centre,  
Schools Hill, Cheadle, SK8 1JE



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**YOUTH  
MUSIC**

**Youth  
Music**

# TOGETHER TRUST

**We are a charity that champions and cares  
for the rights, needs and ambitions of  
the people we support**

[togethertrust.org.uk](https://togethertrust.org.uk)