

**TOGETHER**

# a year together

2021 - 2022

**TOGETHER  
TRUST**

Registered charity number 209782



This year our annual review is introduced by Annette Kerr, one of our long-standing foster carers. Annette has fostered 5 children during her time with us and is currently looking after 3 young people.

“

**My husband and I have been fostering for the Together Trust for 9 years.** We made an initial enquiry and from that moment felt part of the 'team'. The whole process of gaining the skills to foster has continued throughout the training that we receive each year.

**Choosing the Together Trust has been the best decision, they give so much to the young people in our care** - offering days out and an annual holiday.

This past year has been strange, coming out of the pandemic and getting back into meeting up with other carers and their young people. This is invaluable for our youngsters as it gives them an opportunity to talk to others who are classed as 'looked-after children' - something they may not be able to do in other social settings.

Eighteen months ago another young boy came into our family and it has been wonderful as we have watched him grow in confidence and develop his self-worth. **We feel the Together Trust allows us to develop our understanding of how best to support 'looked-after children' in our care.**

During the past year I have become a willing ambassador for the fostering team at the Together Trust. I have spoken to a number of potential carers, over the phone, to try to answer any questions they may have about the realities of fostering. It has been my pleasure to share my family's experiences as they have all been so positive.

”

**Annette Kerr**  
Together Trust Fostering Ambassador



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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 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.

**2,900+**

children, adults  
and families helped  
during 2021/22

**50+**

social care, special  
education, community,  
clinical and family services

**30+**

sites in the  
North West and  
surrounding areas

**850+**

colleagues



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 and young people. 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 25 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 multidisciplinary team offers a wide range of therapy and training programmes, available to professionals; as well as offering bespoke input for children and young people in a variety of settings; and universal advice for the wider community in which they live and learn. We can provide assessments, 1:1 and group therapy, programmes of support 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)



**What we've  
achieved**



## What we've achieved

We're now supporting over 2,900 children and families; demand for our services increased by almost a third in the 12 months to the end of March 2022.

We celebrated our 150+ year legacy in the region and were delighted to achieve external recognition of our customer care and employee development work. Increasing numbers of volunteers joined us and made a great contribution to our services, and ongoing partnerships with families and commissioners provided valuable enrichment activities for the people we support. 'Keep Caring to 18' - charities and individuals collaborating to persuade the government to provide 16- and 17-year-olds in care with a safe, loving home - was a key focus for our campaigning activities.

Details of our 150th heritage activity, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, can be found at [togethertrust.org.uk/150](https://togethertrust.org.uk/150)

We were joined by  
**24** new, regular  
volunteers  
**16** new governors  
and trustees

And we supported **1,000**

more people and families  
compared to 2020/21

**150+**  
years of history  
celebrated with  
events and  
resources

**50+**  
external  
commissioning  
agencies and  
partners worked  
with us to deliver  
life-changing care



**10,700+**  
signatures for #KeepCaringTo18  
delivered to 10 Downing Street



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE | Gold

**Gold**

assessed as 'beyond  
the standard'



**Winner**

Business of the Year  
(over 20 employees)

Investor in  
Customers®  
Gold 2022

**Gold**

for 'exceptional'  
customer care

# Together we care

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

Beth was diagnosed as autistic just after turning 13 years old. She had been permanently excluded from mainstream school and, after referral to Inscape House School, started studying with us.

She is now a Residential Support Worker at Meridian, one of the Together Trust homes, and is loving her job and new life.

Autistic people face many barriers when trying to find a job, and people still hold many prejudices against care leavers.

**Beth remembers:**

“ I enjoyed the interviews, and many went well but, as soon as they found out I was a care leaver, I could see their expressions change and I could tell that the opportunity had gone. It got to the stage that I wasn't going to even put that I was a care leaver or had autism on the application. ”





Beth eventually started working in catering, but life on a zero-hour contract is anything but predictable. That changed when she secured a position with the Together Trust.

Beth has been at Meridian for well over a year and is happy to admit that being a care worker has always been one of her dream jobs. She is working on a permanent contract which offers a “good work-life balance and a good routine with a great staff team.”

“

It's great and I love it. I enjoy supporting all the young people. They're all great and have their own different things going on in their lives so it's nice being able to help. Having autism myself is helpful because I've got an insight into how they feel.

”



Beth says:

**Our young people struggle making choices. Or they don't get given choices at all. I'm trying to encourage independence and help them understand the difference between good choices and bad choices; allowing them the freedom to make their choices and learn experience in a safe environment.**

You can find out more about our residential care services by heading to:

[togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes](https://togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes)

# Together we learn

so that our services adapt and evolve

Hannah, a recent college leaver, benefits from enhanced, person-centred care at the Together Trust's specialist day service provision (SDSP) in Stockport.

**Hannah, aged 23, is non-verbal and has severe autism, learning disabilities, OCD behaviour, severe anxiety and mood disorder.**

At our day centre, she receives tailored 2:1 support to build her life skills and help her do the things she likes in the community. So, every weekday, Hannah is busy with a range of activities such as swimming, litter picking, a walking group, baking and allotment gardening.



Hans, Hannah's dad, said "Earlier in her life Hannah benefited from The Together Trust's services. So, when she left college earlier this year, **the Together Trust's SDSP was our first and ideal choice of care for Hannah.** Her transition has been handled very well. The day centre worked with information provided by her college and mirrored the strategies that were successful for Hannah."

"We were worried about Hannah leaving college" said Georgina, Hannah's mum. "We wondered what's going to happen to her. She can't work and we wanted something for her to do and to enjoy her life.

She likes to be very active and SDSP have set up different, structured activities for her. **They didn't push her into joining things but were guided by what she enjoys."**

Hans continues, "The staff have a wealth of experience in handling people with autism. **They are very well plugged into Hannah's behaviour and know, instinctively, why it's happening and what to do."**

Final word goes to Georgina:

**Hannah really likes the day centre staff and loves going there. The centre more than meets her needs in every way. She hasn't had a bad day since she started.**

To find out more about our community and personalised services take a look at:

[togethertrust.org.uk/community-support](https://togethertrust.org.uk/community-support)

[togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes](https://togethertrust.org.uk/caring-homes)

# Together we achieve

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

**Social worker and activist, Rebekah Pierre works with the Together Trust on the national, 'Keep Caring to 18' campaign and plans to donate half the proceeds from her forthcoming anthology, 'Free Loaves on Fridays' to the charity.**

Rebekah, who herself lived in unregulated placements during her late teens, is supporting the campaign call for the government to ensure young people, up to age 18, receive care where they live.

**“** The 'Keep Caring to 18' campaign takes me straight back to my own experience. I was doing my A levels living in an unregulated placement. Extracts from my diary at the time were used as campaign evidence. **”**





"I first became involved with the Together Trust on social media - they were very vocal - and, later, I was part of a delegation with the charity which presented a petition to 10 Downing Street.

The Trust has been a tireless ally in 'Keep Caring to 18'. **The Trust combines an in-depth knowledge of policy and the law with a creative, caring approach which meaningfully engages the voices of those with lived experience.**

I want to support their work by donating half the money raised from my forthcoming anthology, **'Free Loaves on Fridays'. This book, for which I am currently crowd funding, will be a collection, edited by me, of 15 essays and other pieces by care-experienced people.** It will shine a spotlight on issues faced by older teenagers. The name comes from when I lived in a hostel and was given free bread on Fridays."

Rebekah encourages people to:

**Engage with organisations, like the Together Trust, that can bridge the gap from people on the ground who get what is happening to people in parliament who don't.**

To support and find out more about 'Free Loaves on Fridays' and the Together Trust's campaign work, see:

**[unbound.com/books/free-loaves-on-fridays](https://unbound.com/books/free-loaves-on-fridays)**

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

Together we

grow

organically and sustainably

Jess, who is 15 years old, attends Inscape House School and has autism, ADHD, Irlen Syndrome and dyslexia.

This year Jess, who has been at Inscape for 7 years, helped us to launch an exhibition about our 150-year history by talking about her experience at Inscape to guests at our opening event.

This is what she said:

“ Before I came to Inscape, I was in a primary school and I hated it. I even had no words – I couldn't speak.

When I first came to Inscape, I was really scared – but when I walked into the classroom, they welcomed me with open arms. **I quickly learnt that I can be myself here.** ”



grow

“In my old school I used to be treated differently because they didn’t know what autism was. **Here at Inscape, I have learnt all about my autism.**

**I am able to learn in class because of the way the school has taught me to manage myself.** I am doing English, Maths, Science, Food Tech and Art. I recently did my Art GCSE and I think I have done well.

**The school has taught me life skills – how to be more independent with people and life in general.** They have let me have the freedom I need by trusting me. Sometimes, I need to leave the classroom because it is too much, but I always know when this is now, and I always come back after a short time.”

Jess concludes:

**Some people think kids with autism haven’t got the ability to do what other kids can do because they have different brains. It is nothing to do with autism, it’s to do with who the person is. So no, I am not ashamed of having autism because, at the end of the day, I can do what you do, maybe in a different way, maybe even better.**

To find out more about our specialist learning environments across the North West, head to:

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

# Our volunteers

Our **80 amazing volunteers** have been involved in all our service areas and most support areas over the past year. In addition to the time contributed by our trustees and governors, they donated **1,380 hours to our services**, plus an **additional 149 hours to our events**.

Our volunteer team helped with:

## Fundraising and communications



Collecting donations information, writing articles and supporting our events.

## Residential care



Providing enrichment activities, creating sensory gardens and teaching cookery skills.

## Community services

Advising parents at our SENDIASS service.



## Family support



Creating sleep service materials.

## Education



Supporting our young people with their literacy skills and horticulture studies. 5 students, supported by volunteers at Inscape House School, all improved their confidence or engagement in reading aloud.

Our thanks go to all these dedicated helpers for their sterling work during the year.

# 1,380

hours of time given

# 149

hours of time spent at events

# 100%

of service areas supported



# 80

volunteers support us

# 100%

would recommend us as a great place to volunteer

## Benefits

# 89%

gained useful experience

# 78%

gained self confidence

# 56%

felt part of community

Overall, approximately, 80 volunteers support us. Regular volunteers are defined as volunteers who help regularly rather than on an ad hoc basis. It doesn't include governors or trustees. Regular volunteering hours (1,380) include time by regular volunteers only and not events volunteers, governors or trustees. 100% of the volunteers surveyed recommended the Together Trust as a great place to volunteer.



## Our supporters

Some fantastic individuals and organisations, including our own staff, support our work in a range of different ways. These are just a few examples and we're immensely grateful to all our supporters.

### Andrew Murray

The annual Andrew Murray pro-am golf tournament in September raised over £5,000 for us, with amateurs teaming up with professionals to take on the course, including our 'Hit the Green' game.

**Our support for the Together Trust is now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year**, through our fundraising efforts primarily at the Annual AM Charity Pro-Am.

**Andrew Murray (professional golfer)**

### L'Oréal

L'Oréal provides our services with amazing product donations every single month. These donations mean the world to the young people we support and have an incredibly positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

### Haines House

In 2021, one of our residential services took on the challenge of walking up Kinder Scout! Staff have used the money they raised to equip the home's sensory room. The room now has a new beanbag sofa, a spinning carousel chair, LED lights round the ceiling and wall-hanging string curtains with different textures. The young people at Haines often use the room to relax in.



# Ways to support



## Make a donation

We couldn't provide the life-changing support and services we do without generous donations from our supporters. The money you raise helps us support children, young people and adults to thrive, and live the life they hope for. Let's make a difference together.

Some of the ways you can give to us include: joining our 50:50 lottery for just £3 a month, setting up a monthly gift or supporting our appeals throughout the year. Every single donation is hugely appreciated.

See how you could help us:  
[togethertrust.org.uk/fundraise](https://togethertrust.org.uk/fundraise)

## Attend or support our events

We've been thrilled to re-introduce a number of events which have been absent over the past two years. Whether you're buying a ticket to attend one of our events, sponsoring, providing goods and services or volunteering on the day; your support is crucial.

Over the next year, we have plenty of hugely exciting events coming up and lots of ways that you can get involved! Keep an eye out at [togethertrust.org.uk/events](https://togethertrust.org.uk/events)

## Charity partnerships

We're proud to partner with some amazing organisations who share our vision.

Our partnerships come in all shapes and sizes. But they have one thing in common – collaboration. We get to know your staff, help you plan a calendar of events and come up with tailor-made ideas for your organisation. Together we can raise much needed funds for vital services.

If you're interested in getting involved, email [fundraising@togethertrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@togethertrust.org.uk)

# Future plans

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

We are focusing on four key goals ↓

1

Our needs-led, community-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, campaigns, future policy and provision.

3

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

4

Our flexible, talented and diverse workforce treat people equitably and inclusively. They have clear learning and development opportunities. We listen to our workforce, look after their wellbeing and work with our Staff Council to ensure effective engagement.



*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)

Please contact us to request this publication in different languages, braille, large print or audio format.

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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)