

1271135

Registered provider: Stockport Supported Accommodation Service

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is owned and managed by a local authority. It provides care for up to 6 children with emotional and/or social difficulties. At the time of this inspection, 2 children were living at the home. One child spoke to the inspector.

There is no registered manager in post.

Inspection date: 3 February 2026

Date of last inspection: 10 September 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The inspector looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Findings from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

The home is welcoming and well maintained. It has recently been updated, including improvements to the decor, new carpets and comfortable lounge furniture. Photos of the children taking part in activities are displayed in communal areas and children's bedrooms are appropriately furnished and are clean and tidy.

One child was able to confidently identify members of staff they felt able speak to with ease. Staff greeted the child warmly when they came home from school, demonstrating the trusting and positive relationships that have been established.

One child who lives at the home had not been staying there for several weeks, choosing instead to stay with friends and family. A requirement has been raised in relation to the effectiveness of care planning for this child due to delay, drift and uncertainty surrounding their permanency plans.

Children are encouraged to attend education full time. One child is attending college, studying health and beauty, and would like to pursue this as a future career. For children who face barriers to education, staff advocate for them to ensure that their needs are understood and that they are given the best opportunity to succeed. One child's improved attendance was acknowledged by staff, and they were rewarded with a meal out of their choice to celebrate their progress.

When multi-agency decisions are made for children to move on from the home, the staff make every effort to ensure that the child has a well-planned and positive ending. For example, one child was given leaving gifts and taken out for breakfast and staff who were not on shift came into the home to say their goodbyes. These actions demonstrate the team's commitment to providing children with meaningful, respectful and nurturing endings.

There are positive relationships between staff and children's family members. Children's family time arrangements are prioritised. Staff understand the importance of children maintaining connections with those people who mean the most to them.

Children are encouraged to take part in activities, which helps to build their confidence and self-esteem. Key-worker sessions and significant discussions with children take place to support them with their self-care, managing their feelings and promoting healthy peer relationships.

When historical allegations are made against members of staff, these are reported to Ofsted and to the child's placing authority in line with statutory requirements. However, investigations are not always completed in a timely manner. The allegations policy has recently been reviewed and expected timescales are now clearly set out.

Strategy discussions take place when there are significant concerns about children's vulnerability to criminal exploitation. Staff meet professionals from involved agencies to discuss factors impacting on children's safety and to implement plans to reduce risks. This multi-agency approach ensures that safeguarding responses are timely, informed and effective.

When children go missing from home, staff take a proactive approach in searching for and locating them, as well as reporting them missing to the police and other agencies. On their return, children are provided with the opportunity to speak to someone independent of the home to discuss their reasons for going missing and any worries they may have.

Staff generally take a collective approach to manage situations when children are upset, which helps to defuse situations quickly and safely. However, on one occasion, two members of staff were not available as required to manage a developing situation. This occurred because one member of staff ended their shift early without management authorisation, which reduced staff capacity to prevent escalation. A requirement has been raised in relation to this shortfall.

Since the last inspection, the manager submitted their application to register with Ofsted, subsequently withdrawing it following a period of instability at the home. However, since the appointment of the responsible individual, the manager has resubmitted the application.

The manager, along with the responsible individual, understands the home's strengths and areas for development. They have devised an action plan which is focused on service improvement and includes a robust recruitment strategy.

Feedback from professionals was positive. The independent reviewing officer for one child who has moved on from the home reported that professionals were constantly kept up to date. They said, 'This gave a positive overview of care planning, and they knew [name of child] really well.'

Staff report that inconsistencies in staffing have not always made them feel supported. Leaders and managers have not provided regular supervision for staff in their probation period. A requirement has been raised in relation to this shortfall. Staff demonstrate a clear understanding of whistleblowing procedures and closed cultures. They confidently described the actions they would take if a safeguarding concern arose and are aware of the organisation's new leadership structure. Staff feel assured that any concerns raised would be addressed promptly.

Staff have not always shown confidence when challenging children's behaviour and professional boundaries have not been consistently upheld. Although this has not negatively impacted on the care children receive, a recommendation has been raised to strengthen staff practice in this area.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
10/09/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
22/10/2024	Full	Good
22/08/2023	Full	Good
03/11/2022	Full	Good

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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that arrangements are in place to— manage and review the placement of each child in the home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a) (2)(b)(ii)) Specifically, the registered person must ensure that children are kept informed of their plans on a regular basis so that they can make informed decisions about their futures, and must prevent drift and delay and help children have a positive experience of care. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	6 March 2026
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (1) (4)(b)) Specifically, the registered manager must ensure that staff who are in their probation period have regular supervision as set out in the home's policies and procedures. This requirement was made at the last inspection and is restated.	6 March 2026
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.	6 March 2026

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—

that staff—

understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person.

(Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v))

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure staff consistently follow the home's policies and procedures and that everyone working in the home understands their roles and responsibilities, including adhering to professional boundaries, for the benefit of the children living in the home. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 54, paragraph 10.20)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1271135

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stockport Supported Accommodation Service

Registered provider address: Fred Perry House, 10 Edward Street, Stockport SK1 3XE

Responsible individual: William Kidd

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Michelle Greenhalgh, Social Care Inspector

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