

2580887

Registered provider: Stanfield Care Services Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to four children between the ages of 11 and 18 years with social, emotional and behavioural needs.

The manager registered with Ofsted in May 2020.

Due to COVID-19, at the request of the Secretary of State, we suspended all routine inspections of social care providers carried out under the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) on 17 March 2020. We returned to routine SCCIF inspections on 12 April 2021.

Inspection date: 23 November 2021

Date of last inspection: 6 July 2021

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

This inspection

The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At the interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has improved effectiveness.

The manager has addressed three of the five requirements that were raised at the last inspection. Overall, there has been a reduction in the number of incidents and the frequency with which children go missing from the home. Although there has been an increase in incidents in recent weeks, this is attributed to the children being informed that they will be moving on from the home imminently, which has caused them some unsettlement. Placing authorities intend to move the children back to their own authorities so they can be nearer to their homes.

The manager has a clear understanding of the strengths of the staff and their areas for development.

The manager challenges professionals when she feels that they are denying the children the services and support that they need. The manager challenged a social worker's view about a child having a mobile phone as the manager was concerned that the phone would compromise the child's safety. The manager is child centred and tenacious in her leadership. This ensures that children's needs are fully considered and appropriately advocated for.

The manager responds to complaints effectively. She ensures that the child concerned receives a detailed letter saying what actions have been, and will be, taken because of the complaint. This empowers children because they are aware that their voices are heard, and that action is being taken to improve their experience of care.

The manager carries out regular and rigorous audits of the records and frequently observes staff practice. The manager works on shift to model preferred working practices to staff. This enables the manager to embed a positive culture and ethos that staff can learn from. Consequently, children benefit from an improved standard of care.

Social workers unanimously said that their children have made good progress since moving to the home. Staff support children educationally, and they have supported a child to find and maintain employment. Both social workers said that their children have reduced the frequency with which they go missing from the home and are now more able to manage difficult feelings. This reduces children's exposure to risky situations.

Children have positive relationships with the staff, who they have begun to trust. One social worker said that this is significant progress for her child as, historically, the child has not formed attachments with anyone other than her family members.

Risk assessments reflect the information in children's local authority plans. Risk assessments evidence that the frequency of incidents that children are involved in has reduced over time. The manager regularly reviews risk assessments to ensure that they remain reflective of risk. Staff have greater awareness of risk-reduction strategies. Although staff have not been able to consistently follow the strategies to mitigate risk, there has been a clear improvement in this.

Staff provide children with regular and informative key work. Discussions held are relevant to the children's lives and target areas of concern. Additionally, key-work sessions are used as opportunities to praise the children and recognise their achievements. Staff recognise the progress that the children have made. This progress may not seem substantial. However, given the children's starting points, the progress has been impressive.

The manager responds to safeguarding concerns effectively and quickly. There is good liaison with a wide network of professionals, and the manager follows the advice given by the designated officer. Suggested action plans to improve staff practice are implemented. The manager monitors staff practice with rigour.

Staff have managed incidents more effectively. However, on occasion, there has been an over-reliance on the police to support incidents. This places children at risk of being criminalised for matters that staff should be able to manage.

Staff have made improvements to the garden and the home. The home is maintained to a good standard. However, one child's clothing storage is broken and there is no current plan for its replacement.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
06/07/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be 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, 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 quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff provide to children living in the home the physical necessities they need in order to live there comfortably. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(vii)) In particular, this relates to replacing the broken clothing storage. This requirement was made at the full inspection and is restated.	17 December 2021
The positive relationships standard is that children are helped to develop, and to benefit from, relationships based on— mutual respect and trust; an understanding about acceptable behaviour; and positive responses to other children and adults. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff—	17 December 2021

meet each child's behavioural and emotional needs, as set out in the child's relevant plans;

de-escalate confrontations with or between children, or potentially violent behaviour by children.
(Regulation 11 (1)(a)(i)b)(c) (2)(a)(xi))

This requirement was made at the full inspection and is restated.

Information about this inspection

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.

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: 2580887

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stanfield Care Services Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 6, Cuckoo Wharf, 435 Lichfield Road,
Birmingham, Warwickshire B6 7SS

Responsible individual: Robin Smith

Registered manager: Marie Brodie

Inspector

Lianne Bradford, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2021