

2806882

Registered provider: Stockport MBC

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated and managed by a local authority. It offers care for up to 4 children who may experience social and emotional difficulties and/or learning disabilities.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2024.

At the time of this inspection, 4 children were living at the home.

Inspection date: 14 January 2026

Date of last inspection: 23 April 2025

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector(s) evaluated:

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

Inspectors have 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 well presented, clean and comfortable. Children's bedrooms are nicely furnished and contain children's personal items. One child told the inspector, 'I like living here, staff listen to me and it is peaceful.'

The manager is a strong advocate for promoting positive outcomes for children and escalates concerns on their behalf. There is a strong emphasis on children's participation. The 'You said we did' forms are thoughtful and demonstrates that consultation with children takes place. This enables children to feel heard and valued.

Children's education needs are promoted daily, and children regularly attend school. The manager is a strong advocate for ensuring that children are provided with education plans suitable to the child's specific learning needs. This means that children achieve success in learning, which impacts positively on their self-esteem.

Children were observed coming home from school. They were greeted warmly by staff and engaged in planned activities, such as playing on their game consoles, completing homework and spending time with their families.

The children's health needs are met, and children are encouraged to attend routine appointments. When children require additional support, the manager is proactive at liaising with relevant health professionals to ensure they receive the most appropriate care.

Risk assessments are completed and updated regularly. Risk management plans detail staff responsibilities, supervision arrangements and contingency measures to address emerging concerns promptly.

When allegations against members of staff occur, these are reported without delay, and leaders and managers take appropriate action to investigate the concerns. However, in one case, the electronic record was not updated to reflect new information that emerged following the manager's investigation. A requirement has been raised.

Physical intervention is used only as a last resort to prevent harm. When it occurs, staff record incidents accurately and with a clear focus on the child's experience. Children are offered timely debriefs and staff also take part in reflective discussions to identify learning and monitor emerging risks. This ensures a child-centred approach to risk management.

Staff spoken to during the inspection demonstrated an understanding of whistleblowing and what constitutes closed cultures. They were able to confidently describe the actions they would take if a safeguarding concern arose and were familiar with the organisation's new leadership structure. Staff felt confident that swift action would be taken should any concerns be reported.

The home is led by an experienced, confident and child focused manager. She is supported by an experienced deputy manager. Together, they have a joint understanding of the strengths and areas for development of the home and how staff need to be supported to provide children with appropriate care and support.

Internal monitoring of the home is shared between leaders and managers and case records relating to children's care were up to date and relevant to children's presenting needs. A shortfall was identified relating to the archiving of files of children no longer living in the home. A requirement has been raised

Staff spoke positively about a strong team ethos with clear, effective communication and a consistent team around the child approach to support. Staff described leaders and managers as approachable and supportive and said that managers ensure that they have access to regular training to meet the needs of the children they are caring for.

Staff supervision is taking place frequently as well as additional debriefs, team reflections and regular team meetings. This enables staff to collectively discuss practice related matters and consider alternative approaches and strategies from a child focused perspective.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/04/2025	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, 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 registered person must prepare and implement a policy which— is intended to safeguard children accommodated in the children's home from abuse or neglect; and sets out the procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect. The procedure to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect must, in particular— provide for liaison and co-operation with any local authority which are, or may be, making a child protection enquiry in relation to a child accommodated in the home; provide for the prompt referral of an allegation about current or ongoing abuse or neglect in relation to a child to the placing authority and, if different, the local authority in whose area the home is located; provide for the prompt referral of an allegation about past abuse or neglect in relation to a child to the placing authority and, if different, the local authority in whose area the alleged abuse or neglect occurred; provide for records to be kept of an allegation of abuse or neglect, and the action taken in response; describe the measures which may be necessary to protect children following an allegation of abuse or neglect; and describe how and to whom staff are to report, without delay, any concern about abuse or neglect of a child. (Regulation 34 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f))	20 February 2026

In particular, the registered person must ensure that the policy is clear and easy to read and is reviewed on a regular basis.	
The registered person must maintain records ("case records") for each child which— include the information and documents listed in Schedule 3 in relation to each child; are kept up to date; and are signed and dated by the author of each entry. Case records must be kept— in a secure place after the child has ceased to be accommodated in the home. (Regulation 36 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)) In particular, the registered person must ensure that case records are accurate and reflect the any incident or matters in the home that may require further investigation. Additionally, the registered person must ensure that files relating to children who no longer live in the home are stored securely and are done so in a timely manner.	20 February 2026

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2806882

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Stockport MBC

Registered provider address: Stopford house 3rd Floor, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3UR

Responsible individual: William Kidd

Registered manager: Alice Bodley

Inspectors

Michelle Greenhalgh, Social Care Inspector
Jennifer Quest, Social Care Inspector

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