

Inspection Top Tips

Models of Care

October 2025



Children's Homes Regulations



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

(a) that staff -

(ix) understand how children's previous experiences and present emotions can be communicated through behaviour and have the competence and skills to interpret these and develop positive relationships with children;



Regulation 11 - (2)



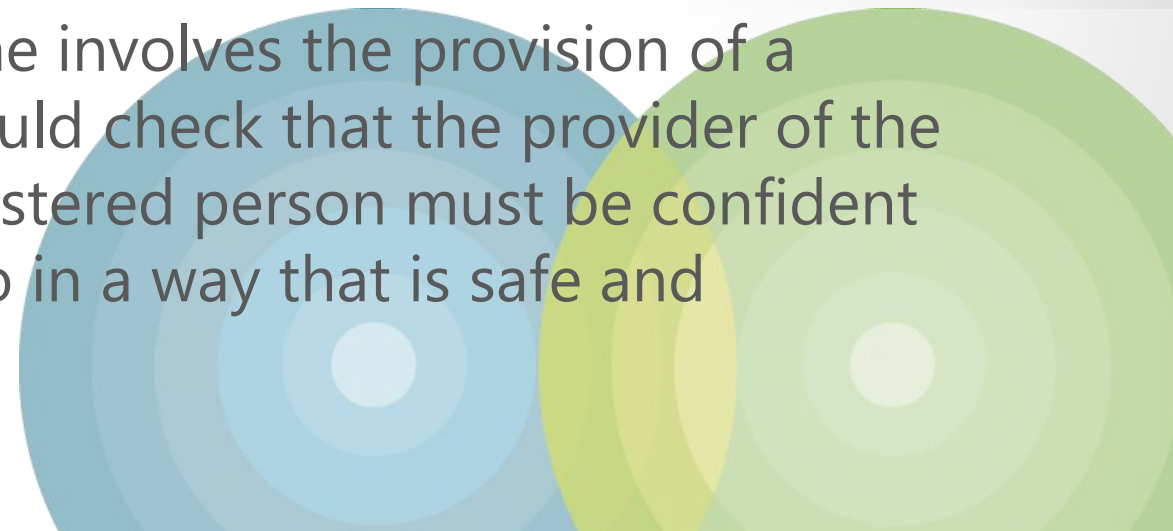
Children's Homes Guide

3.15 The relevant plan may include a strategy for a particular type of care, treatment or intervention (for example therapy relating to neglect or abuse). The care staff will need to understand the purpose of any such care and the way in which the past experiences of abuse or neglect may manifest itself in the day to day life of the child.



Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- Children experience care and help that are sensitive and responsive to their identity and family history, including age, disability, faith or belief, sex, gender identity, language, race and sexual orientation.
- The care and help assist them to develop a positive self-view and to increase their ability to form and sustain attachments and build emotional resilience and a sense of their own identity.
- The care and help also assist them to overcome any previous experiences of neglect and trauma.
- Where the care provided in a children's home involves the provision of a regulated activity, the registered person should check that the provider of the service is registered with the CQC ... the registered person must be confident that the person delivering the care will do so in a way that is safe and appropriate for the individual child.



Be careful what you offer

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... a specialised unit for children, usually residential and often incorporating education as well as care, and usually organised on the basis of offering planned therapeutic help and support over a period of perhaps two or three years. At the heart of this work will be a recognition of the need to understand and address the impact on children of traumatic early experience (for example of serious loss, neglect, abuse or extreme attachment difficulties).

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Therapeutic communities for children and young people', A Ward et al (eds), 2003:11

Be careful what you offer

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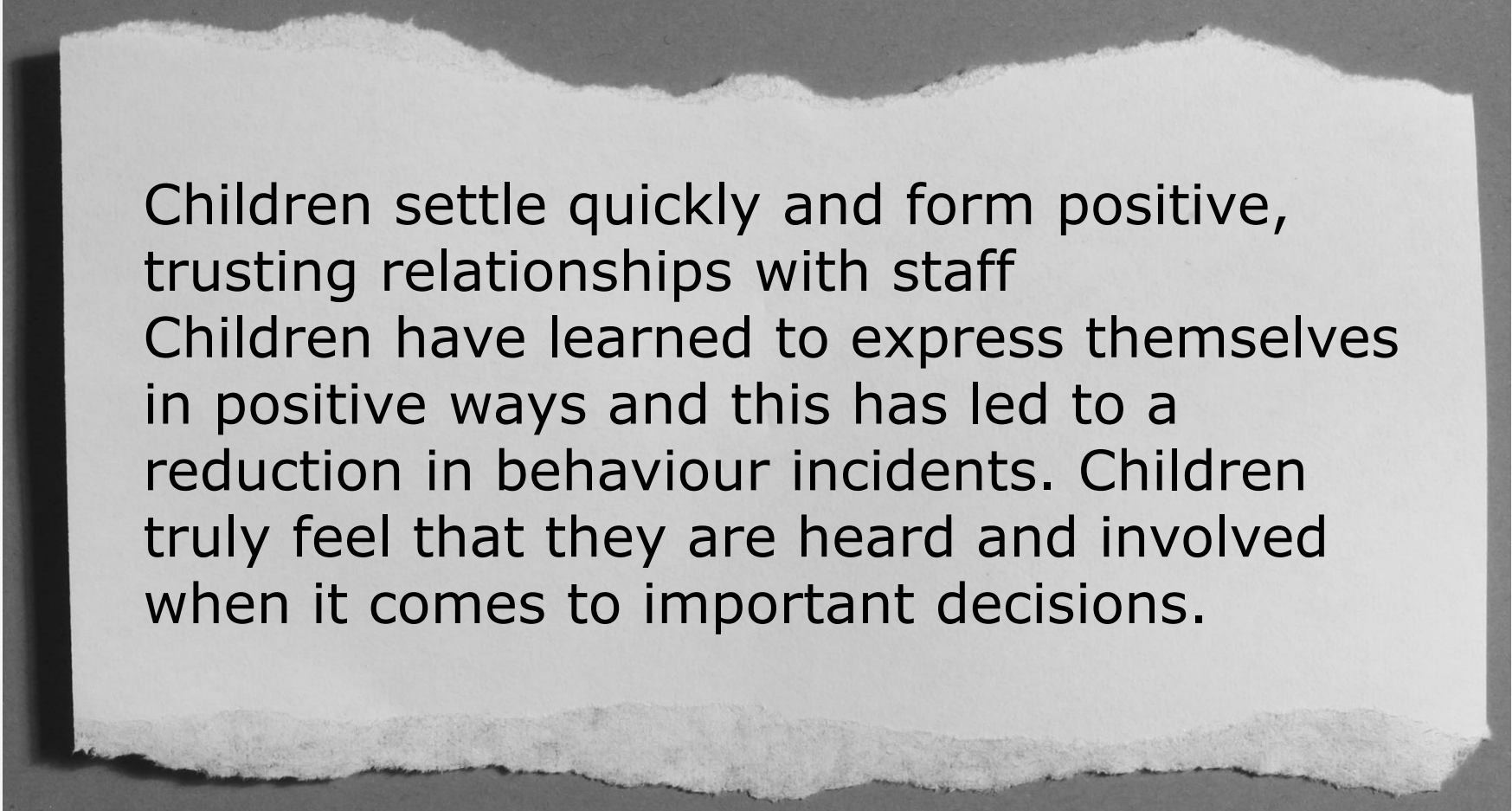
It is not clear that the use of 'therapy' in the statements of purpose always reflected this concept

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[What types of needs do children's homes offer care for?](#) Ofsted (2022)



Ofsted comment from inspection - good home

A piece of white paper with a torn, deckled edge is centered on a dark grey background. The paper contains two lines of black text. The text is a quote from an Ofsted inspection report.

Children settle quickly and form positive, trusting relationships with staff
Children have learned to express themselves in positive ways and this has led to a reduction in behaviour incidents. Children truly feel that they are heard and involved when it comes to important decisions.

Top Tips...

1. **Base the care provided on the approach and models set out in your Statement of Purpose**, then tailor the care plan to the individual child.
2. **Be clear what you mean by a therapeutic approach** and be prepared to explain how staff are equipped to deliver this.
3. **Use models of practice such as PACE or Trauma Informed Practice** to consider the impact of your approach on the child but use experience and supervision to explore the best approach you can take.
4. **Always be listening to the child taking into account both verbal and non-verbal communication** to ensure you are offering the best opportunity to build a positive relationship.
5. **Ensure staff qualifications around therapeutic approaches are set out in your Workforce Plan.**



Trauma Informed Residential Care Training Pathway...

We've been working with our team to develop a trauma informed pathway for organisations working with young people with a history in care to build the capability and confidence of your teams' work with children and young people.

We've individual and organisational pathways with options for those new to trauma informed work, and for people who are highly experienced.

Next dates:

We are currently gathering interest for these courses.

You can read full details and register your interest for this training by clicking on the button below:

[Trauma Informed Residential Care Training Pathway](#)

