

Inspection Top Tips

Statement of Purpose

February 2026



Children's Homes Regulations



(1) The registered person must compile in relation to the children's home a statement ("the statement of purpose") which covers the matters listed in Schedule 1. Which is:

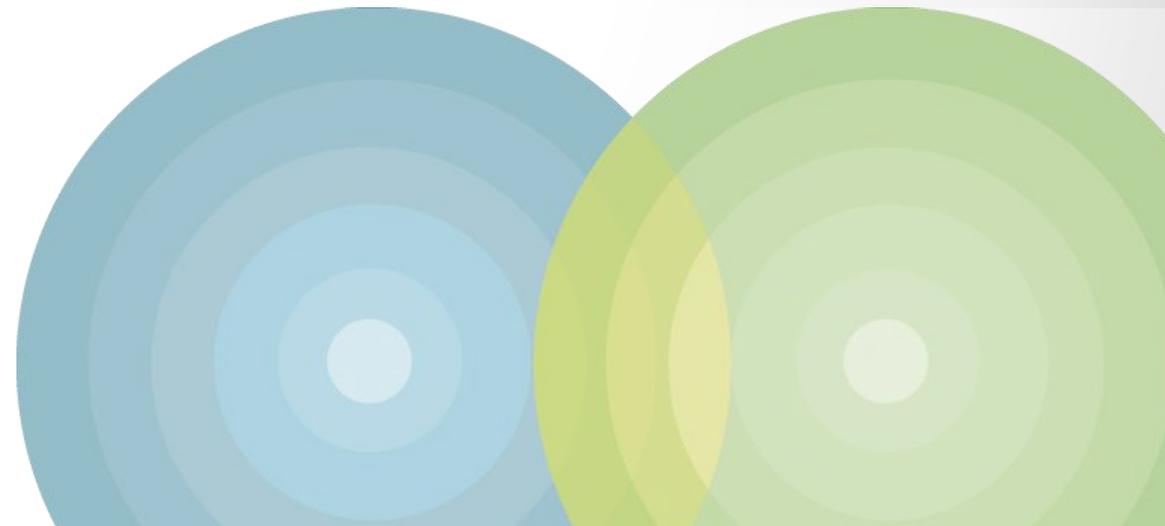
Schedule 1. A statement of the range of needs of the children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation.



(5) Subject to paragraph (6), the registered person must ensure that the home is at all times conducted in a manner which is consistent with its statement of purpose.

Children's Homes Guide

3.5 Homes are required to develop and keep under review a "Statement of Purpose" (regulation 16 and schedule 1). The home's Statement of Purpose should be child-focused, indicating how the home provides individualised care to meet the Quality Standards for the children in their care.



Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

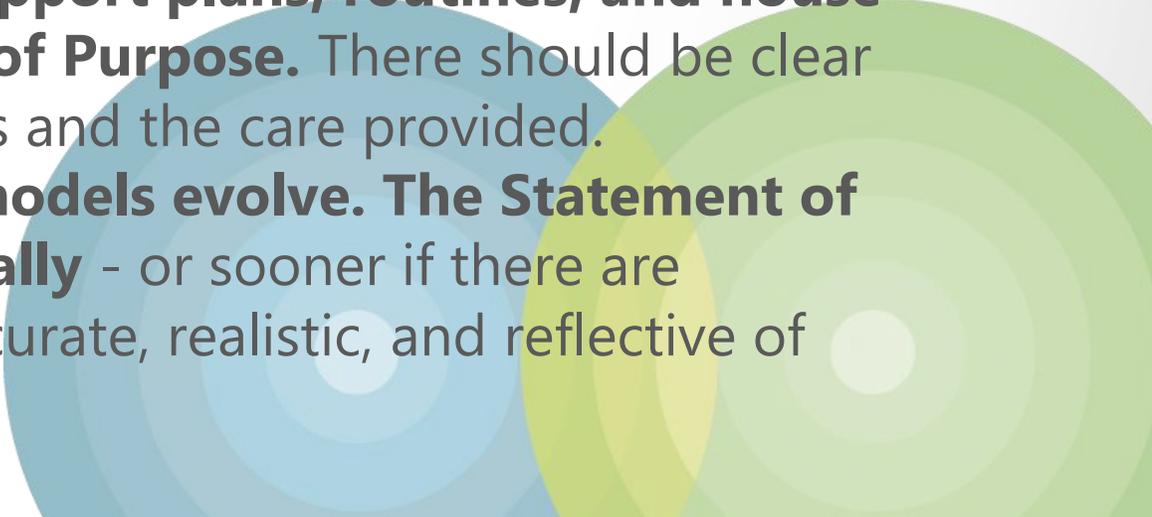
- Practice is consistent with the home's ethos and objectives. These are clearly stated within the statement of purpose, which is reviewed and updated as necessary.
- If a statement of purpose sets out that the home provides specialist care to children, the specialist nature of the arrangements is clearly defined. This includes any additional training and support arrangements for staff.
- How placement decisions reflect a home's statement of purpose, and balance the needs of the child with the needs of those already living there.
- The home's statement of purpose should be available on its website and form part of the pre-inspection data. We should also hold a copy in our database because homes are required to submit this document to Ofsted whenever they are changed.



Ofsted comment from inspection – Requires improvement

The Statement of Purpose states that the home provides specialist therapeutic support and access to on-site education; however, inspectors found that therapeutic input is commissioned externally on an ad-hoc basis and there is no on-site educational provision. In addition, the Statement of Purpose has not been updated to reflect recent changes to staffing structure and the age range of children accommodated.

Top Tips...

1. **The home should only admit children whose needs it is equipped to meet, as set out in the Statement of Purpose.**
 2. **Ensure the staff team in the home are sufficiently skilled and trained** to care for any child admitted and match the skills identified in the statement of purpose.
 3. **The Statement of Purpose should be an active document that all staff understand and actively refer to in daily practice, team meetings, supervision, and decision-making.** Ensure that there are regular times where the team reflect on the homes compliance with the statement of purpose.
 4. **Care plans, risk assessments, behaviour support plans, routines, and house rules should clearly reflect the Statement of Purpose.** There should be clear evidence about what the document promises and the care provided.
 5. **Children's needs, staff skills, and service models evolve. The Statement of Purpose should be reviewed at least annually** - or sooner if there are significant changes - to ensure it remains accurate, realistic, and reflective of current practice and the home's ethos.
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Questions to consider...

- Is the statement of purpose up to date and reflective of the care you are able to provide?
- Are you compliant with Schedule 1 - in particular, where the needs of the children you are able to meet are clearly identified?
- When considering any new child coming to the home, do you ensure that the decision is informed by the Statement of Purpose and that referrals outside of this will not be able to be accepted?
- When updating the Statement of Purpose, are you able to match the resources, ethos, staffing and model of practice in the with the most up to date document?

