

# Inspection Top Tips

Children's Views

March 2026



# Children's Homes Regulations



(1) The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who -

- (a) develop positive relationships with them;
- (b) engage with them; and
- (c) take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives.



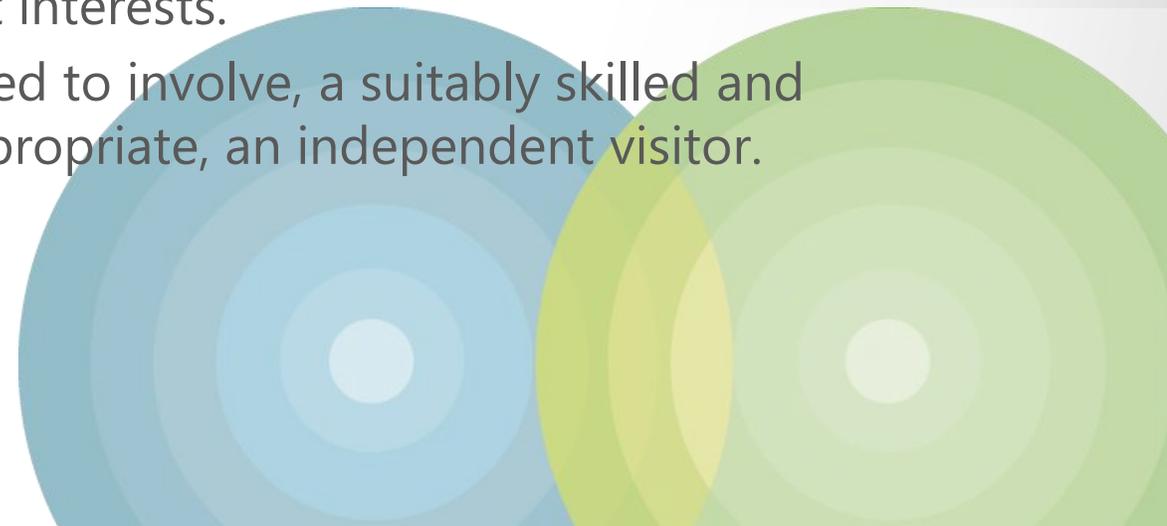
# Children's Homes Guide

**4.3** Positive relationships are those which are characterised by consistency and unconditional positive regard for the child on the part of the carer; and where the carer acknowledges the importance of understanding and responding to the child's lived experience of care. Positive, stable relationships help the child to feel secure and cared about and for.

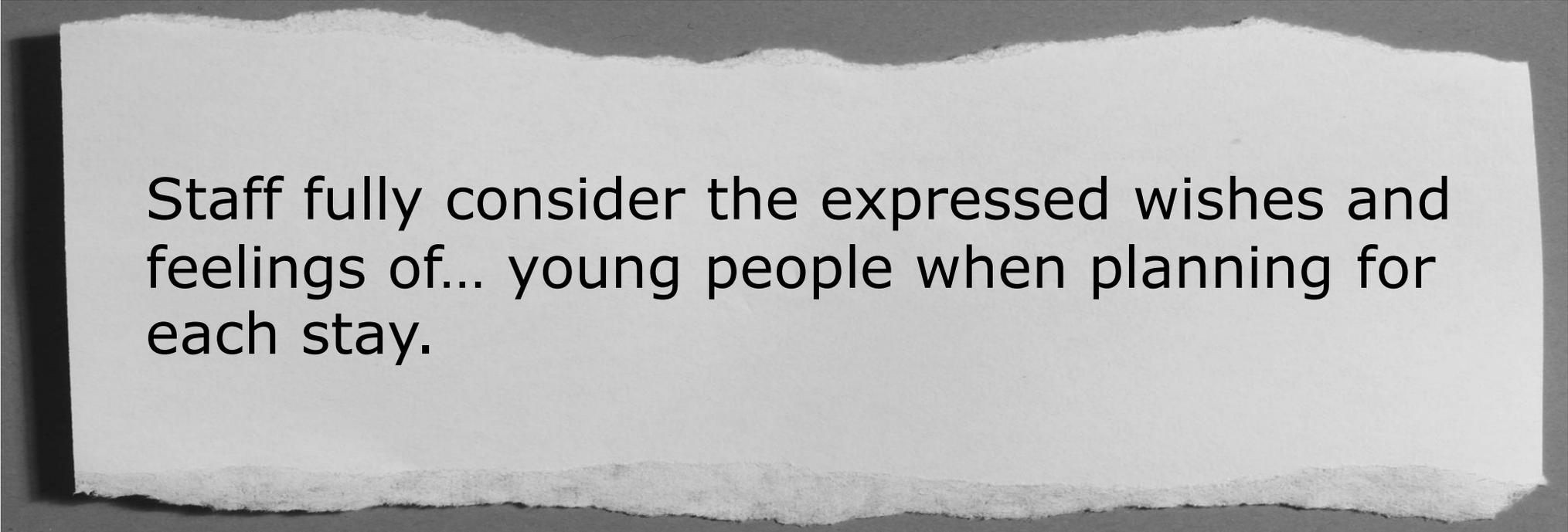


# Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- Staff are committed to providing stability for children who, as a result, are able to develop an appropriate sense of permanence and belonging.
- Staff know the children well, listen to them, invest time in them, protect them and promote their welfare.
- Children have trusted and secure relationships with the adults who are looking after them. They have a range of positive experiences, which leads to progress.
- Children, including those who are non-speaking, are supported to actively participate in day-to-day and more complex decisions about their lives, as appropriate.
- They are sensitively helped to understand where it may not be possible to act on their wishes and where other action is taken that is in their best interests.
- Children have access to, and are actively encouraged to involve, a suitably skilled and experienced independent advocate and, where appropriate, an independent visitor.



## Ofsted comment from inspection – Outstanding short break home

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Staff fully consider the expressed wishes and feelings of... young people when planning for each stay.

# Top Tips...

1. **Consider the communication styles for each child** and how best to help them express the views they have through a variety of options.
  2. **Always represent the views as expressed by the child** in the language that are comfortable with avoiding professional jargon.
  3. **Evidence where the views of the child have been included in risk assessments and care planning** including the sign off from the child that this accurately represents their view.
  4. **Where the views and wishes of the child are not assessed as in their best interests, evidence the plan to explore and work with the child on the issues identified.**
  5. **Staff need to be consistent and clear in the plans for the child** so can respond to the wishes and feelings expressed in a way that does not provide mixed or confused messages to the child.
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