

# Statement of Purpose

## SC 462729



## Sherards Cottage

**Reviewed & Updated October 2021**



Building Brighter Happier Futures

## **Introduction**

In order to comply with Regulation 16 Children's Homes Regulations (2015) each home is required to have a Statement of Purpose. The Quality and Purpose of Care Standard specifies that the statement of purpose is clear and available to staff and children and reflected in any policies procedures and guidance. It is available to the responsible authority and any parent or person with parental responsibility.

## **Quality and Purpose of Care**

### **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.**

**Sherards Cottage** provides residential care to five young people aged between 7-17 years old and can be of mixed gender. The majority of these placements will be a 52 week placement but there will be occasions that a 39 week placement will be Considered and agreed if appropriate.

This decision will be in line with the needs of the individual child/young person and taking into consideration the needs of the other young people in placement. The manager takes time to ensure that any behaviors and impacts on others are carefully considered and there is minimal risk to our young people regarding individual behaviors impacting others. At Sherards we have a robust matching process and consider the support & developmental needs of existing young people and a potential new young person coming in. The young people who we cater for may have experienced significant trauma in their lives resulting in a range of behavioral, emotional and social difficulties. These needs may form part of a wider spectrum of needs centered on previous life experiences such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect and specific diagnosed behavioral conditions or associated with learning, physical or emotional disabilities. Children and young people may display emotional and behavioral difficulties in a range of forms which may include verbal or physical aggression, bullying, theft/burglary, absconding or disengaging with the service or support offered, self-harm, arson, inappropriate sexualised behaviours, and destruction of property, criminal behaviours and other challenging behaviours. Sherards Cottage has had experience of working with all these behaviors and has a range of depth of staff with experience in managing these behaviours.

Young people's care plans are formulated with the appropriate identified targets and interventions recorded for staff to follow within the plans and in addition referencing to psychological targets and their pathfinders.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

## **2. Details of the children's homes ethos and the outcomes that the children's home seeks to achieve and its approach to achieving them**

This home is part of SureCare Residential Ltd, which is an organisation that provides a range of therapeutic, residential and educational needs services and support. SureCare has a therapeutic approach to care and every young person is supported through staff receiving challenging behavior training.

In addition to this SureCare offers support for trauma through our therapeutic services. Annual training in our key areas can be given on request. SureCare works to ensure that looked after children are provided with help, care and support needed for them to thrive.

SureCare's Vision is **to help children to build better brighter futures.**

Sherards Cottage aims to promote independence and positive experiences for people with emotional and social difficulties. We aim to support young people to manage and learn to live with their personal challenges and to understand how it affects them as an individual. All of the young people that we provide services for have unique skills and abilities and we endeavour to provide meaningful opportunities, which allows each young person to express their personalities and raise their self-esteem. We provide a quality service built on respect, trust and honesty and believe in offering equal opportunities to all. We believe in respecting and supporting individual's cultural and spiritual beliefs. We actively facilitate visits to places of worship to fulfil individual's spiritual beliefs. Each person living at Sherards Cottage has details of their religious beliefs and requirements documented within their care plan.

SureCare focuses on positive outcomes for our young people. SureCare understand that progress and achievement is very individual and therefore all programs and support offered to achieve outcomes are tailor made and fit the personalised needs of each of our young people placed in our service. Every achievement is celebrated. SureCare exists to provide care, education and support to the children and young people in the greatest need who have faced significant trauma and deprivation. Our primary aim is to provide each child/young person with the necessary tools and identified support needs to aid their transition back into foster care, family home or a less intense provision such as building towards semi/independent living.

The cycle of assessment, monitoring, evaluation and review will identify the support and provision required to ensure the child/young person is able to build on areas of strength



Building Brighter Happier Futures

and make progress in all areas of need. Multi-disciplinary meetings and inter-agency support will ensure that all professionals involved with the child/young person can determine the best care & placement plan. SureCare aims to empower children and young people in the decision-making process. Our model of care is underpinned by our values of:

- Respecting the individual child's/young person's experience (recognising and building resilience)
- Healing through relationships (attachment)
- Learning for Life (social learning)
- Recognising the importance of the child's/young person's whole system (working in partnership)

Our mission is to ensure that every young person is safe and free from harm. That we provide outstanding individualized care to young people from a range of cultures, ethnicities and varying social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. We aim to make certain that at the time young people leave our care that they are knowledgeable and proficient in how to support themselves and that they are emotionally resilient enough to cope with life's unexpected difficulties. Our vision at Sherards Cottage is to build relationships with young people that enable us to support them, care for them and help them to gain greater understanding of their own behaviour and others' behaviour. One of the purposes of our work is to raise self-esteem and resilience so when it is time for the young person to move on from our care then they are better equipped to overcome any future difficulties they may face.

**Sherards Cottage ethos and values are:**

- To build positive attachments and relationships with the young people
- To encourage the young people to reflect about their own feelings and intentions and that of others
- To have a culture of open and honest discussion and to work in partnership with the young person in order to fulfil goals
- To increase independent living skills giving them transferable skills/strategies that they can use in their adult lives
- To enable young people to have a voice and their voice to be listened and responded to
- For the young people to be consulted regarding every aspect of their care
- The staff team consider their role as more than just a job and to treat their role with the level of professionalism and responsibility that it requires to work with these young people



Building Brighter Happier Futures

- The staff team are committed to dealing with difficult feelings both within themselves and the young people.

In Sherards Cottage we recognize that every young person is different and within the home they are treated as such, their care plans and other supporting paperwork is individual and tailored to meet their needs. The care plan is monitored and adapted in accordance with how the young person develops and changes over time and alongside the placing authority care/placement plan.

**3. A description of the accommodation offered by the home, including-**  
**(a) How accommodation has been adapted to the needs of the children**  
**(b) The age range, number and sex of children for whom it is intended that accommodation is to be provided; and**  
**(c) The type of accommodation, including sleeping accommodation**

Sherards Cottage is able to offer up to four children male or female, aged between 7-17 residential accommodations for 52 weeks a year. The building has been designed to meet care standard requirements but remains homely and comfortable. The accommodation meets all health and safety regulatory requirements and offers a variety of communal and private spaces for children to be supported with social and educational needs.

Sherards Cottage is a spacious detached property, set back off the road with a clear boundary fence and gate. The house has a fully fitted kitchen, dining room, lounge, reading room with games, and puzzles in. We also have in May 2018 implemented "game zone" (young people chose this name), with an Xbox and a TV.

There is also a bathroom allocated to young people upstairs. All toilets and bathrooms/showers have locks to promote the child's safety at these intimate times. In addition to this staff have an office downstairs and two sleeping in rooms one upstairs and one downstairs.

All children/young people have their own bedroom and at no point will a child share a bedroom. Children will be afforded the opportunity to contribute to aspects of the home's day to day management, this will include decoration and furnishings, improvements to the house or service and any future developments that they may ask for. The "game zone" is an example of this. 2 young people wanted to be involved in decorating, and naming this. In addition the wall paper in our lounge was chose by one of our young people also.

All young people are involved in the decoration and furnishings of their own bedrooms.

## 4. A description of the location of the home.

### Travel Links

#### Rail

There are two mainline rail stations in Harlow: Harlow Town and Harlow Mill. Both have connections to London Liverpool Street and Stansted Airport. Access to the London underground at Tottenham Hale station can be reached in under 20 minutes and Liverpool Street reached in 40 minutes. If travelling in the opposite direction Cambridge can be in 50 minutes.

#### Road

There is a direct link to M11 within a very short drive from the home and access to the M25 from the M11. The A10 can be accessed from the M25 which gives a direct route into central London. The M11 also gives direct access to Cambridge in the opposite direction.



### Getting to Harlow

#### By Air

Harlow has good road and rail communications with London Stansted Airport, which is less than 15 minutes from Harlow via the M11. London's Heathrow and London Gatwick Airports are easily accessible via the M25 Motorway with journey times about 50-90 minutes.

#### By Road - From London

##### A10



Building Brighter Happier Futures

Follow the signs for the A10 to Cambridge. At the intersection with the A414 (south of Ware) turn right on to the A414. Follow this road until you reach the Eastwick roundabout and turn right for Harlow, following the A414 into town.

### **M11**

Join the M11 from the southeast via junction 4 at Redbridge on the A12 or join at junction 6/27 at the M11 intersection with the M25 (which heads towards Dartford Tunnel/Queen Elizabeth Bridge to the east and provides a link with Gatwick and Heathrow Airports).

Once on the M11 leave by exit 7 clearly marked Harlow. Take the A414 (Harlow) exit at the major roundabout, pass the Little Chef restaurant and down the hill to the Park Inn Hotel.

### **By Road - To the north of town**

#### **A1184**

The A1184 from Stansted/Bishops Stortford passes through Sawbridgeworth entering the town near Harlow Mill Station, Old Harlow.

#### **M1**

Leave the M1 via the M10 near St Albans. The M10 is a short stretch of motorway which you leave via a roundabout.

Head towards the A414 going eastwards, (signposted for Hertford) and follow the road until you reach the Eastwick roundabout, and turn right for Harlow, following the A414 into town.

### **By Road - From the northeast of England**

Travel on the A1 until you pick up the A14 at Huntingdon, which leads directly to the M11. Leave the M11 at exit 7 and take the A414 (Harlow) exit at the major roundabout.

### **By Train**

'ONE' provides a service from London to Harlow Town and Harlow Mill stations, accessible from London Liverpool Street Station (also an underground station).

The journey takes between 35-50 minutes. Some trains bound for Cambridge or Stansted Airport also stop at Harlow.

Harlow Town Station is the main station for Harlow (Harlow Mill serves Old Harlow only). A taxi rank and bus services operate just outside the station. The Central Line (London Underground) stops at Epping which is 12 miles from Harlow and accessible by bus or taxi.

### **By Coach**

Harlow is well served by various national and regional coach operators. Since the routes and times are subject to change, it is best to contact a travel agent or bus/coach company directly for details.

## **Activities within the surrounding area**

- Parndon Wood Nature Reserve



Building Brighter Happier Futures

- Harlow Museum
- Harlow Town Park – Outside band stand, Skate park, Pets corner and Town Farm
- The Gibberd Garden – created by Frederick Gibberd, Master town planner of Harlow new town. Set in a small valley in the grounds of his home and containing 50 sculptures and moated castle among other terraces and vistas.
- Water Gardens – shops and eateries
- The Harvey Centre – Indoor shopping centre
- Harlow Playhouse - a busy presenting venue serving West Essex and East Hertfordshire and is home to several resident arts groups.
- Harlow Leisure Zone - a £25m state-of-the-art community leisure centre.
- The Square - Harlow's Independent Live Music Venue
- Cineworld, Bowling and Quazar
- North Weald Market – England's largest regular Saturday and bank holiday market
- Marks Hall Gardens and Arboretum

This is not an exhaustive list and further information of activities is held at the home.

Sherards Cottage has a location risk assessment in place the outcomes of which are that there are no concerns raised for the house being situated in its current area and all risks remain relatively low regarding police involvement and that the area is comparatively affluent. Further information is available within the Location Risk Assessment (LARA).

## **5. The arrangements supporting the cultural, linguistic and religious needs of the children.**





Building Brighter Happier Futures

We believe it is important to set a culture of understanding around diversity and an acceptance of different religious beliefs, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Sherards Cottage may hold theme nights in the house looking at different cultures and beliefs, which the young people are encouraged to contribute to and participate in. Young people at the home are offered the opportunity to attend their place of worship and staff will provide whatever support is necessary to ensure this happens. The staff at the home are from mixed religious beliefs and provides an acceptance to those of all religions.

We embrace the celebration of a wide range of special days and key traditional celebrations for a wide range of cultures. For example, bonfire night, Chinese New Year, Eid, and Christmas. We respect any celebration day that a young person wishes to acknowledge but also that they may choose not to celebrate as well.

---

## **6. Details of who to contact if a person has a complaint about the home and how that person can access the home's complaints policy.**

SureCare has an overall complaints policy which is used in Sherards Cottage. The complaints procedure consists of 3 stages:-

- i. The Informal or Problem Solving Stage
- ii. The Formal or Registration Stage
- iii. The Review Stage

At the informal stage, the complainant should speak to a member of the Sherards Cottage team.

For formal complaints contact the Registered Manager of the home. However, if the complaint is regarding the Registered Manager, complainants may contact a Director at Head Office.

For young people, Sherards Cottage ensures that copies of the complaints procedure are listed in the children's guide which is given to and explained to young people on their first day at the home or if possible prior to the move.

In addition to this the young people are also made aware of who their independent visitor and children's rights officer is. The Registered Manager also ensures they are available to the young people to discuss any issues they may have to try to resolve any difficulties quickly and succinctly. All the young people know that the Registered Manager operates an open door policy and they often take advantage of this by talking in the Registered Manager's office discussing issues or requesting answers to pressing questions they have.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

Young people have plenty of opportunities in Sherards Cottage to voice their views and opinions. They can discuss anything they are unhappy with not only in regular young people's meetings, but also through 1:1 consultations, 1:1 discussions with the Registered manager or their keyworker. They also have opportunities to speak privately with relevant visitors to the home such as their social worker, Reg 44 inspectors, Independent Reviewing Officers and Ofsted. This allows ample opportunity for young people to voice any concerns and gives staff opportunities to resolve any issues as soon as they arise.

In Sherards Cottage when young people are still not happy there are complaints forms that they can complete. Staff will support young people to complete these forms and this is then communicated to the Registered Manager, Deputy Manager or nominated senior. The young person will be spoken to, consulted about what they would like to happen with the complaint and then all necessary action will be taken. A resolution will be reached that the young person is happy with and any action needed from the complaint will be implemented. Complaints are dealt with immediately and in line with statutory requirements and company policy. This process is the same whether this is an external or internal complaint. Young people receive a written reply from the Registered Manager to ensure there is a resolution to the complaint and that they are happy with the outcome, prior to closure of the complaint.

Manchester  
M1 2WD  
Tel: 03001231231

The Children's Commissioner for England  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT  
Tel: 020 7783 8330

Care Leavers Association  
40 Fountain Street  
4th Floor  
Manchester  
M2 2BE  
United Kingdom  
Tel: 0161 637 5040

## **7. Details of how a person, body or organisation involved in the care of protection of a child can access the home's child protection policies or the behaviour management policy.**

### **Safeguarding.**

The homes staff members are trained and regularly refreshed in the area of safeguarding and sexual exploitation. Each young person is cared for differently and in accordance with their needs in terms of safeguarding and CSE. The home's staff work closely with placing authorities and public services, If a young person's risk assessment increases regarding their personal safety, then managers with placing authorities may formulate personalized safety plans to protect each young person.

Additional support in this area can be sought for the young person. This can come in the form of the psychologist who can work with young people and staff in promoting the psychological wellbeing of the young person.

At the centre of safeguarding within the home is the idea that if young people feel comfortable around the home and have a good relationship with staff they are more



Building Brighter Happier Futures

likely to listen to a staff member when they are trying to encourage them to stay safe. In addition to this, good relationships mean a young person is more likely to open up to the staff member about any situations that worry, upset or scare them.

The home ensures staff are familiar with the company's whistle blowing policy and the home emphasizes the ethos that all concerns, no matter how small they seem, must be reported whether they concern colleagues or not. The number one priority for the staff member is the children/young people.

**The home's safeguarding officer is: The registered Homes Manager and should be contacted in the first instance should you have a safeguarding concern on their individual mobile phone number or email address. The Company has several designated safeguarding officers which include, Homes Managers, Directors and The School Headteacher/managers. (All Designated person –level 3 qualified)**

**The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) can be contacted and the details will be displayed in the home available to all staff, as can CSE liaison Officers and interagency professionals relating to safeguarding concerns.**

### **Missing from home**

Sherards Cottage has a Missing from Home Policy that provides the minimum standard for every young person living at the home. The staff like to create a relaxed atmosphere in the home and make a concerted effort to make each young person feel that they can talk to staff about their problems, worries and frustrations. If the home is a safe haven for young people then the likelihood that they will run away is reduced. Where a young person has a history of absconding on entering the home allocated working sessions are held at the start of the placement to ask the young person what makes them want to abscond and what they think staff within the home could do to help change that.

Sherards Cottage also looks at what each young person's likes and dislikes are and what motivates them and incorporates this into the activity schedule to

Increase their participation within the home and encourage them to avoid absconding.

In specialized high risk cases the basic missing from home procedure can be altered and extra measures put in place. This can involve such things as altering the time a young person is reported missing to the local police, providing 1 to 1 staffing for the young person, supervising any monies and putting personalized incentives in place if needed.

Where any amendments are made to the missing from homes procedure these are agreed with the placing authority through the young person's social worker. Where any



Building Brighter Happier Futures

intensive measures are put in place the home works with the young person and the placing authority on the longer term goal of lowering the risk level and gradually reducing any extra measures put in place. The aim of this is to get young people to make safe choices independently so they are not overwhelmed by the freedom they have when they leave care.

Where a young person is reported missing to the Police, staff are asked a series of questions regarding the young person's prior history of being missing, the circumstances of the current incident and the behaviour leading up to the event, any other risks the young people present with, and what contact the young person has made. Depending on the answer to these questions, the police then risk assess the situation and act accordingly.

In the event that a young person goes missing, regular telephone and e-mail updates are given to social workers, family members (where applicable) and other relevant parties i.e. YOT, education establishments. In addition to this the Registered Manager and Directors, may also be updated regularly.

If a young person is missing more than three times in one month or has been missing for a long duration, a member of the house's management and leadership team may organize a strategy meeting with the young person's social worker and all relevant parties involved in safeguarding the young person. This allows an opportunity for everyone to discuss the behaviour, make an action plan for the young person's safe return and put in any amendments to the young person's placement plan.

SureCare closely links with Essex Missing Person's police coordinator/liaison officer regarding any high risk absconders as well as being someone who the registered manager can ring up for advice and guidance in relation to young people being missing from care.

Homes will follow the missing person's policy from each placing authority that the young person is accommodated by and with reference to the host policies in place to ensure clear communication is agreed for reporting young people missing from care and addressing their return.

### **Bullying**

The home has a zero tolerance approach to bullying; this is outlined verbally to the young people when they first arrive at the home and they also receive a copy of the anti-bullying procedure within the Sherards Cottage young people's guide. Young People are encouraged by staff to support them to keep the home free from bullying and are encouraged to speak up if they are being bullied or know someone who is. As with safeguarding the staff member's relationships with the young people, vigilance in



Building Brighter Happier Futures

recognizing bullying behaviour is pivotal to this in terms of disclosures of bullying and also the likelihood that both bullies and bullying victims will accept support and help from staff. Bullying is discussed as part of staff initial induction and in the case of persistent bullying training from our psychologist can be delivered to support staff to understand and manage bullying behavior confidently and effectively.

Where a bullying incident or claim occurs, it is thoroughly documented and investigated by The Homes Manager. The staff work hard to ensure that a suitable consequence is delivered, and the right support is put in place to help the bully and their victim explore why it happened and how to avoid it happening again. In rare cases where bullying continues it is made clear to the bully that the consequence could mean they are moved out of the home.

In Sherards Cottage bullying can be set as an agenda item on the young person's meeting so it can be discussed openly, and young people have a forum in which to safely raise any issues they may have. It is rare that Sherards Cottage has extreme cases of bullying where verbal or physical threats are made but the staff are also very proactive in managing and confronting any 'underhand' looks or throwaway comments that are more commonplace and could also be classed as bullying. In addition to this impact assessments are regularly reviewed, and there are always staff in the communal areas of the home to monitor and support young people's interactions.

## **Views, wishes and feelings**

### **8. A description of the home's policy and approach to consulting children about the quality of their care.**

We fully recognize that Children/young people have their own views, wishes and feelings, and that we must promote each child's/young person's right to have a say.



### **Involvement In their own care**

- The children and young people resident within SureCare will be consulted about every aspect of their care whilst in placement. This will be done both formally and informally using a variety of different means. No child is assumed unable to communicate their views; therefore, appropriate methods for gaining views should be sought and provided. For example, children's views are sought during Key Worker/ 1:1 sessions, significant conversation, reviews, and planning meetings.
- Children and young people will be actively encouraged to participate in the development of their individual care plans, reviews and any other key meetings and will be supported and encouraged to ensure their views are heard.
- The children/young people will have opportunity to discuss, debrief and comment following any incident, consequence or use of positive physical intervention. This will consider how we can prevent this from happening again. They can also read and comment on their review reports, care and health plans.
- The children/young people will have regular one to one sessions with their allocated worker to discuss continued needs, progress, any issues and to set targets for the next meeting.
- The Registered Manager is always available for the young people to speak to both openly and in private about anything that is troubling them.

### **In the running of the home**

- The home will have regular young people's meetings to discuss and consult with the children about the operational aspects of the house. Children/young people will contribute to these meetings and all children are invited to take part. These are child friendly and are age appropriate. Children are given the opportunity to make/voice informal complaints both during and after the meeting. Minutes are kept as a record of discussions and outcomes.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

- The children are consulted and may participate in the recruitment process of staff.
- Children and young people are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms in line with their individual tastes and interests and will also be consulted about the décor of the home and purchasing new items or re decoration.
- The children and young people will also have regular monthly opportunity to discuss with the Regulation 44 inspector, any concerns, or issues they may have about the quality of care in the home. Any comments or concerns are raised and discussed with the Registered Manager and appropriate action will be taken in response.
- A record of the views of children and young people about the development of the home and the children will be regularly consulted throughout the year. Any ideas and suggestions put forward will be considered and the children will receive feedback from the consultation. This is in the form of the Registered manager's consultation process and recorded within consultation records.

We will ensure that Children/young people are provided with information about how to contact the [Children's Commissioner](#), have access to a Children's Rights Officers (within the Placing Authority) and/or an Independent Advocate;

### **Consultation with others**

- The Registered Manager has regular consultation with professionals, families and significant others relating to the care of the child and operational running of the home as part of the Regulation 45 process.
- The home will ensure that any professionals and significant others including family where appropriate are kept informed of incidents, achievements and any concerns relating to the child.





- Formal consultation about the care and operational running of the home forms part of the monthly Regulation 44 inspection.
- The Registered manager, as part of the annual review of the Home will ensure consultation with children and young people,
- Social Workers, Placing Authorities, families, significant others and other professionals inform the continued development of the service.

Within the home young people are expected to participate within the Sherards Cottage house routines and boundaries. The staff ensure that at mealtimes everyone is encouraged to sit down to eat together, and young people are encouraged to participate in the home's events and activities. In addition to this the young people are expected to contribute to the home by helping each other and staff to keep the home clean and tidy and a nice place to live. They are asked to take ownership of the home contributing to decoration ideas both in their bedrooms and communal spaces. In terms of participating in their care, Key working aims are to work closely with young people on their care plan and are encourage them to discuss what they want for themselves for both the short- and long-term future. They discuss how they think they can reach these goals and what they feel they need to do to achieve this. In addition to this the keyworkers are more closely involved with the young person's care plans. They work with the young person, social worker and family members to ensure that they all have a say in the young person's care. They act as an advocate for the young person and ensure that other staff members in the home are aware of the up-to-date plan for the young person's care. The keyworker will also make an effort to be there for the young person whenever they are needed; for example, if the young person would like their keyworker to attend an event or appointment with them then the Registered manager ensures this is accommodated for on the rota.

Explanation is given on admission and young people's induction process, to ensure they understand when any external visitors to inspect and access their care plans and care records as part of the Regulation 44 Visit process.

In Sherards Cottage we value the views and opinions of our young people around potential new staff and feel it is very important when selecting new staff to join the Sherards Cottage team. In addition to this the Registered Manager consults with the young people on existing staff, gaining their views and constructive feedback to help staff improve on performance or to 'iron out' any difficulties that the young people may be having with any members of staff.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

All young people are given a copy of the home complaints policy and can have access to a telephone to make private phone calls as required. They are also encouraged to participate around decisions involving consequences and rewards for behaviour.

---

**9. A description of the home's policy and approach in relation to-**  
**(a) Anti-discriminatory practice in respect of the children and their families;**  
**and**  
**(b) Children's rights**

---

Sherards Cottage is part of SureCare Residential Ltd, which is an organisation committed to equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice both in terms of the staff it employs and the children and young people it looks after.

All staff will have equal access to training, supervision, support and promotional opportunities. Stereotypical thinking in relation to age, gender, sexual orientation and able-bodied status will be challenged. None of these issues of difference will affect an individual's position within the home or their access to achievement.

Similarly, all young people looked after at the home will have equal access to the benefits and opportunities available. It is recognized that on occasion, young people will behave in a way that attracts consequences. If so, these will be applied consistently and fairly and in line with the guidelines provided by regulations. Staff are clear that the purpose of the use of consequences with young people is to promote change and reflection, not to punish. A consequence record is also completed to ensure that the young people are consulted, and their views are considered with regard to the consequence and given an opportunity to express their views and work to a compromise if that is appropriate.

We believe that all people – colleagues, young people and visitors should be treated with respect. Disruptive or offensive language or behaviour will not be tolerated and will always be challenged. When such incidents are perpetrated by young people, they will be dealt with in a way that promotes better understanding and encourages a change of attitude and behaviour. If young people are subjected to discrimination, they will be offered protection, comfort and support. We believe that all young people are equally entitled to have their needs met and to be free from abuse and exploitation.

Each young person will have a keyworker who will explain to them their rights as a looked after child and consistently ensure that these are being met. There will be regular meetings between staff and young people where the issue of children's rights will be addressed to ensure that young people feel that they are being consulted, listened to and treated equally and fairly.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

## **10. Details of provision to support children with special education needs.**

The children/young people resident in Sherards Cottage will either attend SureCare's education provision and Independent School, White Trees, a local mainstream school or specialist provision within the local community. The staff team encourage the children in all educational activities and endeavor to ensure that all children have their individual educational needs met.

Regular liaison/meetings take place with the staff team and the teaching staff regardless of whether the child is at White Trees School or an external educational provision. SureCare's school head teacher supports the team in their ability to liaise with all external educational provisions that are providing our children with education.

If young people are without an educational provision staff will continue to try and source one, but in the interim young people will be encouraged to do educational activities, or activities that will support developing skills, e.g. independence, health and fitness, or social.

Residential courses, after school clubs and activities ranging from sport and adventure to performing arts and learning support, staff are proactive in encouraging and supporting young people to attend.

The common aim of each activity and residential course is to have fun, enjoy the adventure and excitement of challenging new activities with an emphasis on improving self-confidence, self-esteem, social skills, trust, responsibility, and awareness for others. There are a wide range of activities and clubs currently on offer support young people's life and social skills. Young people are offered the opportunity to support the decision making about the range of clubs offered. These take place through consultation with the School manager/or the Homes Manager.

## **11. If the home is registered as a school, details of the curriculum provided by the homes and the management and structure of the arrangements for education.**

Not Applicable



Building Brighter Happier Futures

**12. If the home is not registered as a school, the arrangements for children to attend local schools and the provision made by the home to promote children's educational achievement.**

As mentioned above, Sherards Cottage consider education to be very important to a young person's future chances in life so therefore place great emphasis on supporting the young people in attending school and engaging with the work. In addition to this we see opportunities outside the school day to increase learning; this may be talking about the news/current affairs, work experience or informal learning around social/independence skills. We also operate a reward system (Pathfinder) for all young people, which may vary between each young person depending on their level of behaviour and need but ultimately will center around promoting engagement with education and recognizing achievement in this area. All young people are given the clear expectation to attend school, and this is promoted through a 24-hour curriculum. Individualized timetables are put together with the Sherards Cottage team, school and placing authority to ensure that it is child centred and ensures that they can engage in activities dependent on their own hobbies and interests. Sherards Cottage work closely with the education provider and offer planning meetings and strategy meetings, to help explore why a young person may be behaving in a certain way and help to gain a consistent approach to make the young person feel safe and better able to engage.

Where appropriate, Sherards Cottage and their education partners have informal handovers when they see each other at the learning environment and more formal ones take place in a meeting format. There is a high level of communication through E-mails and phone calls. On occasions, where it is deemed in the best interest of the young person the homes staff sometimes offer 1 to 1 at school to help young people manage their behaviour at school.

Some young people have individualized time tables to support their own needs. For instance they may attend part time or have a more vocational based time table to support their abilities. These time tables are reviewed regularly and amended as required taking into consideration the wishes and feelings of the young people. The home also pays for school lunches where applicable. The home has various communal spaces that the young people can be used to study in and are encouraged to.

The local Library is 10 minutes' distance from the home and all young people are encouraged to join. This provides a safe place for young people to research and learn through the use of books or get away from the distractions that home can sometimes provide.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

The home will work closely with each school and ensure they are conversant with the school's rules, and behaviour management and reward systems. This is so that these can be supported consistently from both home and school. Each time a young person refuses to attend education the home's staff will discuss this with in a key work session with the young person to try to establish why they do not want to go to school. The home will also contact the school and give an update. It will notify the school of any incentives it has put in place to encourage the young person to attend in future and will also request work be sent over to the home for the young person. If the issue persists the home will organize meetings with the school to formulate an action plan or discuss whether an alternative placement needs to be found. The number of absences a young person has is logged. This summary is used to update the social workers and also to track the young person's progress in both education and all other areas. This allows any patterns or problems to be highlighted early and tackled before they escalate. It also allows any praises to be celebrated both in terms of attendance and achievement at school. Whenever a young person achieves within the education setting, the home's staff always ask the young person if the certificate can be displayed in the home. If the young person does not want this the certificate is stored securely in the young person's file. The certificate is valued by the home's staff and this in turn increases the pride the young person has for achieving it. The home will offer monetary or activity related rewards for any young people who regularly attend education and work hard. They also make sure that positive feedback is passed on to parents, social workers and other relevant individuals.

## **Children's Behaviour**

### **13. The arrangements for enabling children to take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, intellectual, physical and social interests and skills.**

Sherards Cottage aims to provide a broad range of opportunities for all the children and young people to participate in leisure and recreational activities. This is to give them as wide ranging experience as possible to potentially find a talent or interest that can be pursued. The preferences of the young people will be taken fully into account in deciding on activities and through young people's meetings and sessions with keyworkers young people are encouraged to bring ideas and suggestions about activities or hobbies they would like to pursue. Within the local area there are swimming pools, theatres, leisure centres, bowling, cinema, countryside parks and woodland walks, shopping centres, golf, paintballing amongst other things.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

Young people are encouraged to access local activity groups and social clubs of their choosing for example, scouts or guides, Cadets, dance/performing arts clubs or youth clubs as part of their social development and to enable them to actively participate in community living. Where young people may struggle in a social setting the staff team think creatively to try to increase a young person's ability to engage in community groups or by providing individual opportunities which could be a stepping stone to the bigger goal of community integration. Sherards Cottage aim to have an annual holiday during the school holidays. This is done in consultation with the children's wishes and feelings and the children are kept involved in the planning of the holiday activities and events, great care is taken by the staff team to ensure that all young people's views are heard and where it is felt appropriate separate holidays can be undertaken to try to ensure every child gets the opportunity to experience a holiday. Young people may choose to participate in a week away where the children can participate in outward bound activities, for example, abseiling, climbing and canoeing or camping trips. Consent is sought from the local authority and parents, where applicable, prior to a child participating in such events. All young people resident in Sherards Cottage will be encouraged to participate in these activities to help build on their own self confidence and self-esteem and experience life outside of the residential setting.

**14. Details of any healthcare or therapy provided, including-  
(a) details of the qualifications and professional supervision of the staff involved in providing any healthcare or therapy; and  
(b) information about how the effectiveness of any healthcare or therapy provided is measured, the evidence demonstrating its effectiveness and details of how the information or the evidence can be accessed.**

General Health

All staff are trained in the administration of Emergency First Aid and have regular refreshers and formal renewal training takes place through Head Office. Information about the walk in centres, NHS direct and local emergency health care provisions are available in the staff team office. The home's procedure is that all health problems not matter how small should be checked out by a professional and staff should support



Building Brighter Happier Futures

young people to access a health service. Every health concern is recorded in the young people's health plans and where appropriate in incident, accident forms and placement plan sessions. Where a young person refuses to seek medical attention, this is also clearly logged. On admission all young people are registered with local health professionals. The home always (when possible) refers young people to the same doctor, dentist and opticians; this means that staff can be confident in the quality of health care provided. In addition to this it helps staff to build up a rapport with local health professionals irrespective of the length of the young people's placements.

In terms of promoting the young people to lead a healthy lifestyle the home is highly proactive. Young people are encouraged to partake in a range of different types of exercise. Staff members ensure that young people are educated in how to lead a healthy balanced lifestyle; this is done through consultations and key working sessions. Each young person has an individualized health plan that covers their medical history, allergies, diet, exercise, personal hygiene and physical and emotional health. This is SureCare's Therapeutic Team

SureCare's Therapeutic Team is committed to providing a service which helps create an environment where young people can fulfil their potential and a system which can effectively and appropriately meet their emotional & mental health needs.

The underlying principle in our work is that a young person's social, emotional, intellectual and psychological functioning and the behaviours they exhibit can be understood in the context of their early childhood experiences and their life history.

We at SureCare adopt a holistic view which privileges the social inclusion, achievement, quality of life, and developmental stage of the young person and the promotion of positive relationships with the people who care for them. SureCare has a consulting Clinical Psychologist who meets weekly with the Assistant Psychologist, who is based at SureCare fulltime and works under the direction of the Clinical Psychologist, informing staff's therapeutic practice and working directly with individual young people who find it difficult to engage in direct therapy. These are alternative and additional sessions to key working sessions, concentrating on identified areas of development from the 'Assessment and Treatment Plans'. The Assistant Psychologist will also be overseeing therapeutic targets and different psychological assessments (informal and formal).

The Assistant Psychologist supports and facilitates the peer supervision meetings and facilitates the staff reflective therapeutic supervisions. These meetings are integral in helping the staff to understand the function behind each young person's behaviour and



Building Brighter Happier Futures

indeed their own thoughts and feelings about how and why behaviour may challenge staff directly in their working with young people. With guidance from the Clinical Psychologist, the Assistant Psychologist is available for guidance, support and advice around any young person should a member of staff require this. For some young people who are not able to access 1:1 therapy sessions, the Assistant Psychologist supports the staff team in working with these young people. This may be in the form of consultation, case management meetings or guidance to staff around specific pieces of work. The Assistant Psychologist works in close collaboration with the Registered Manager looking at the needs of the young people, functioning of the team and training needs of the staff needs, where appropriate, consult with other members of the team to ensure that needs of both young people and staff are met by attending regular staff team meetings.

A more Individual plan for therapy may be accessed via the Clinical Psychologist or another therapist as identified by the Therapeutic i.e. play therapy or art therapy.

We recognize the primary importance of the support system in eliciting and maintaining change for children and provide significant indirect support to young people through consultation with staff teams and workforce training and development.

The work of the Therapeutic team is complemented by the therapeutic environment provided by residential care staff.

**Full details of therapy team and relevant qualifications available on request.**

### **How is SureCare therapeutic?**

How we are therapeutic can be summarised in the below 12 areas.

#### **ASSISTANT PSYCHOLOGIST (AS) & CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST (CP)**

- AS support to staff & YP through weekly consultation with CP
- Formal & informal assessments: CISS, Resiliency Scales, SureCare Assessment & Treatment Plan
- Therapeutic targets: resulting in top tips, informed practice & achievable outcomes

#### **RELATIONSHIPS (SENSITIVE, RESPONSIVE CARE)**

- Predictability, routine, visual information
- 'Holding in mind'
- Keeping your word
- Spending time together
- Turning up
- Emotional boundaries – self & others (3 Ps: Professional, Personal & Private)
- Reflective – as a staff member & with YP
- Cooking / cleaning for & with them. Knowing & understanding what that represents to the YP = you are demonstrating you care.
- Common third interest, e.g. watching TV, shopping, interests/conversation topics – demonstrating 'realness'.



**SOCIAL INTERACTION**

- Communicating at the right level depending on YP's needs. 'One size doesn't fit all' with communication
- Hobbies / clubs

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT**

- Understanding challenging behaviour (Challenging Behaviour Model - CBM)
- Clear boundaries, consequences, rewards
- Restorative justice
- Behaviour management plan
- Training
- Supervision / debrief / peer / therapeutic supervision
- Pathfinder

**POSITIVE DISTRACTION**

- 1:1 time with staff
- Outdoor physical exercise (e.g. trampoline, bike ride)
- Pets

**CARE PLANNING**

- Initial Care Plan
- Keywork / admissions pack
- CISS & Resiliency scales
- Assessment & Treatment Plan (A&T Plan) completed by staff & analysed/ summarised by Clinical Psychologist.
- A&T Plan + Therapeutic targets discussed / reviewed (6 monthly) in team meetings

**KEY WORKING**

- Engaging in positive activities
- Occasional trips away with KW
- Link to care plan & target setting
- Monthly report to SW
- 6 monthly LAC review report / meeting

**FAMILY**

- Support in maintaining family relationships where appropriate
- Support following contact (individualised to YP)

**GIVING A SENSE OF CONTROL**

- Providing YP information to make informed choices
- Advocating attendance and/or participation at meetings / reviews.
- Complaints process
- Exploring values / what's important to YP
- Youth council

**EDUCATION**

- Helping with homework
- Pathway & transition into school
- Information sharing with school staff

**PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY**

- Individual therapy can be accessed if required & appropriate, either by in-house CP, therapy provided by school, CAMHS/EWMHS or other outside providers.

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Art work & pictures of young people
- Garden / outdoor space

**CARE PLANNING  
for a Therapeutic  
Approach**

**INITIAL CARE PLAN & INITIAL  
ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PLAN**

**CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

Meetings held with Clinical psychologist, Assistant  
Page 26 of 30  
Psychologist, Keywork teams and S/W and White  
Trees as appropriate.

Identify if Bridging sessions/Individual Therapy Is  
Appropriate.





Building Brighter Happier Futures

Staff are mindful of this and ensure that where contact takes place there is good communication between parents and the home and young people and the home on how the contact went. Careful consideration is given to ensure that contact is as positive as possible but with the young person's safety remaining paramount. For those young people who do not have contact the home will ensure that the young person has access to an independent visitor, this can be through consultation with their local authority or via an advocate.

## Protection of Children

### 16. A description of the home's approach to the monitoring and surveillance of children.

The company has policies which cover the use of Door Alarms that is reviewed annually.

- Such devices may only be used if set out in relevant Young Person's Placement Plans/young person's handbooks.
- Every effort is made to ensure the young person's privacy, dignity and rights whilst the system is in use.
- Their use is assessed on an individual basis, agreed to in the care plan and social workers awareness.
- The child is made fully aware of their use and the reasons why the decision is made.
- The use of the door alarms is reviewed regularly as to their appropriateness of use.

This alarm is linked to a staff sleep-in room who are notified of a child's exit/entry from a bedroom by a low level buzzer. The staff member is then able to decide whether a young person requires assistance if there is a prolonged absence.

The use of door alarms is not to be viewed as a monitoring system or to be used as a behaviour management tool but is to be deemed an additional support mechanism for the children/young people overnight, should they require additional support, for example if they are taken unwell during the night. The use of alarms on the external doors is to provide additional security for the Home and will highlight to staff any unauthorized entry.

## **Use of Door Alarms**

Door alarms are not set until the child/young person has settled to bed for the night. Door alarms are to only be set in line with the individual risk assessment in place, and all staff are to be aware of the risk assessments for each child/young person. All staff are to be trained and aware of how to operate the door alarms. All staff are to be aware of the risk assessment in place regarding the use of door alarms. Should the door alarm be activated, then both staff undertaking sleep in duties should respond and appropriate action taken in response to the door alarms being activated. This could include talking and reassuring an unsettled child/young person or supporting a child who has had a nightmare. Once the child/young person has settled back into the bedroom then the alarm should be re-set. Staff should ensure the child/young person has returned to their own bedroom before re-setting the alarms. Staff should then return to their own sleep-in rooms.

## **Promoting the Welfare of children/young people**

Door alarms are to only be used to provide additional security for the home and as an additional means of supporting the children/young people overnight. Each child/young person will have a risk assessment regarding the use of door alarms. Additional support will be available overnight should a child/young person leave their bedroom, as the alarms will alert the staff, who will be able to offer the appropriate levels of support and guidance as needed.

This measure will further safeguard the young people by letting staff know should the young person leave or enter a bedroom and enable appropriate levels of supervision to minimize the risks of bullying or harm.

## **How children will be informed of the use of door alarms**

The use of door alarms is recorded in the Young people's handbook / guide for the Home. Children and young people will be informed on arrival at the Home about the use of door alarms via placement planning meeting (or individually if they do not wish to attend). Should there be opportunity to discuss the use of door alarms prior to arrival at the Home i.e. planning visit then children and young people will be informed then. The use of door alarms is recorded in the Statement of Purpose which the Social Worker and any significant others will receive a copy of prior to placement.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

Further to this there is a consent form for use of door alarms to be signed by placing authority.

### **How legitimate privacy of children will be protected**

Children and young people will be informed of the use of door alarms on arrival at the Home and staff will discuss with them the need to be appropriately dressed when leaving their bedroom once the alarms are set i.e. the wearing of dressing gowns.

Door alarms will not be used as a behaviour management tool or as a monitoring device and will only be set once a child/young person has settled to their bedroom for the night. Appropriate levels of support or space will be given dependent on the individual circumstances of the child/young person leaving their bedroom.

Usual practices in ensuring the legitimate privacy of the child/young person i.e. when using the toilet etc. will be observed.

### **How children/young people will be protected from potential abuse of such measures.**

The use of door alarms within the home will be monitored and will be used in line with risk assessment. Staff must record any incidence of door alarms being activated during the night and staff must respond to any alarm. Staff are to ensure they discuss and agree who is responsible for setting/re-setting the alarms at night.

Any use of door alarms will be as an additional measure of support for the child/young person and not as a behaviour management tool or monitoring device. The purpose of the door alarms will not be to punish or supervise the child/young person, but to ensure appropriate levels of support and guidance are available overnight, or as additional security to highlight to staff if doors to the Home are opened.

The Manager is to monitor the use of door alarms within the Home and any issues or concerns should be addressed. At Sherards Cottage, other than door alarms, no other electronic surveillance is used within the home. The home prides itself on its homely atmosphere and does not have any issues which would require this system to be in place.

## **17. Details of the home's approach to the behavioural support, including information about – (a) the home's approach to restraint in relation to children; and**

**(b) how persons working in the home are trained in restraint and how their competence is assessed.**

When caring for children/young people who display challenging behaviour, it is sometimes appropriate to use physical intervention as a method of care and control, to ensure the safety of the child/young person and those who care for them. Physical intervention is always a last resort; after all other interventions have been exhausted. All staff members are trained in Positive Management of Challenging Behaviour (CBT). There is an emphasis on developing a skill base that enables control and boundaries without the need for physical intervention. Staff attend Positive Management of Challenging Behaviour training which teaches them how to consider all options prior to physically restraining a child and the physical intervention techniques. The physical intervention techniques taught to staff members are based on NFPS training (National Federation for Personal Safety) and staff having received instruction in this method, hold a relevant certification and workbook in their CPD file. Physical intervention is used only as a last resort when all other interventions have failed. Staff attend annual refresher training courses to ensure techniques are in line with NFPS practices. Physical intervention is a reality of our work, but Sherards Cottage, in line with the SureCare policy, work hard to decrease the need for intervention. Our belief is that the cycle of assessment, monitoring, evaluation, and review allows for proactive planning rather than reactive action. All significant incidents and incidents of physical intervention are recorded; they are then read and signed/reviewed by the Registered Manager, or the Deputy Manager in their absence. The antecedents are important in ensuring all responses are appropriate and in line with the risk assessment and young person's behaviour plan. Any consequences imposed on a child as a disciplinary measure will be recorded and checked to ensure appropriate responses are used. The Management team in the house also ensure that each incident of physical intervention is followed with a debrief with the young person and debrief with the members of staff involved. When monitoring incidents, the Management team give emphasis to thinking about the incident details (time, date etc.), the young person's motivations and staff dynamics to try to give an overall therapeutic point of view of why it may have happened and to highlight any work that may be needed to resolve it, to Prevent further occurrences or improve behaviour management strategies.

Consideration of the young person's deprivation of liberty, is always given when there is a requirement for use of physical intervention. This will also be considered within the young person's care plan where at times supervision is required for a young person outside of the home. There are times where staff will be required to closely supervise a young person for their own safety when they leave the home. In such situations this



Building Brighter Happier Futures

measure/management strategy will be documented and referenced within their written care plan and risk assessments so as to show a planned and reviewed approach to safeguard the young person.

It is acknowledged that such an environment and working model will inevitably on occasion, result in an allegation of some nature against staff. In these circumstances, child protection procedures apply and are followed accordingly. Both staff and the child/young person involved in the use and application of any physical intervention are debriefed following the incident and are offered medical attention. The child/young person will be closely monitored by staff following any physical intervention.

**The registered Provider is SureCare Residential Ltd:-**

SureCare Residential Head Office  
The Old Snap Factory  
Twyford Road  
Bishops Stortford  
Hertfordshire  
CM23 3LI

**The Responsible Individual of the service is Emma Barr:-**

SureCare Head Office

**The Homes Manager of Sherards Cottage is Matthew Foord:-**

Sherards Cottage  
Harlow  
Essex

**More information available on request**





Building Brighter Happier Futures

## **18. Details of the experience and qualifications of staff, including any staff commissioned to provide education or health care.**

The staff Team:

### **Responsible Individual:**

#### **Emma Barr**

Emma - has worked with Looked after Children & across social care and education for more than 20 years. Emma is a strong advocate for children and believes that all children should be supported to reach their full potential. She effectively uses her own and the skills and vast knowledge of SureCare Senior management team She has used to improve the outcomes for children. Emma began her career at SureCare in 2008 as Office Manager, when founded with her husband. She progressed as Director of Operations when she decided to have more presence within the company.

NVQ Care Level 3

Child Protection Designated Person (Level 3)

PTLLS Level 3 Award – Trainer

Level 3 Award Health & Safety in the Workplace

First Aid Trainer & Assessor

### **Homes Manager: Homes Manager**

#### **Matthew Foord**

QCF Level 3 – Children & Young People

Child Protection Designated Person (Level 3)

QCF Level 5 – Leadership & Management (H&S) (currently in process)

Matthew has been employed with SureCare since March 2016 and was originally employed at one of our other homes Clifton House in Sawbridgeworth. He began in the role of TPW, developing in his understanding of working effectively and supporting looked after children resulting with successful promotions to Senior TPW and then to Deputy Manager.

Matthew transferred to Sherards Cottage in January 2021 to aid his personal development

Matthew leads by example and has been a stable foundation both at Clifton House and Sherards Cottage, with supporting both staff and young people to develop and sustain the highest standards and quality of care.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

Emma and Matthew can be contacted at the home and at the SureCare residential head office.

**Full details of all staff and relevant qualifications are available on request.**

### Training and Qualifications

All staff will receive an in-house induction over the initial weeks of employment within Sherards Cottage which helps familiarize them with house routines, structures and boundaries. They are given specified time to read the Policies, Procedures and Practice file and opportunities to visit all areas of SureCare Residential. All staff will attend SureCare induction training within the first 3 months in order to introduce the professional responsibilities of each key area. Staff also have competency-based performance management at 3 months & 6 months. This is recorded on a tracker system and shared with all relevant departments within the organisation.

Training available to all staff:-

#### **Induction**

Introduction to SureCare and our Ethos  
The Role of the TPW/designated positions  
Child Development-how young people may become Looked After  
Introduction to Education  
Safeguarding Training/CSE  
Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discriminatory Practice  
Introduction to the Therapeutic Services/models and support  
Care Planning/Risk Assessing  
Supervision and Performance Management  
Anti-Bullying awareness

#### **Mandatory Training**

Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures  
Basic Fire Awareness Course/Fire Marshall Training  
Emergency First Aid at Work  
Food Hygiene (Awareness)  
Health & Safety in the Workplace Training  
Internal Medication Course & Procedures  
Introduction to Positive Management of Challenging Behaviour - (CBT & NFPS) Training  
QCF L3 in children's residential care (CYPR)



Building Brighter Happier Futures

## Child Sexual Exploitation

A wide range of additional training and continual professional development is in place (see annual training plan). The Registered Manager may also facilitate or ask for bespoke training if they feel the needs of the young people/house or staff require it. Within the first year all staff will begin a range of trainings which covers child care practice, theory and legal aspects of working within a residential setting. The induction is linked to the CDWC Induction Standards. All staff will be qualified to NVQ3/QCF in Health and Social Care (Children and Young People) or working towards their accreditation.

### **Additional Training (these are not exhaustive)**

In addition to our mandatory training for staff we offer a robust therapeutic training program delivered by our therapeutic services. The details of this are available on request. At SureCare we offer and encourage our young people to develop their skills and they are encouraged to attend First Aid and Fire Marshall training and any additional skill development to promote and advocate their rights and their personal development.

## **19. Details of the management and staffing structure of the home, including arrangements for the professional supervision of staff, including staff that provide education of health care.**

Sherards Cottage is comprised of a staff team of a Registered Manager, Deputy Manager, Senior Therapeutic Project Workers and Therapeutic Project Workers. SureCare also employ bank relief workers. The numbers of staff will be dependent of the numbers of children placed within the home and their levels of needs. Actual numbers of staff on duty will be determined by the number of children/young people in resident and according to their assessed needs. The home operates on a minimum of 2 staff to 5 young people staffing ratio from 8.00 until 23.00 and sleep in staff overnight. The home is flexible and well equipped to increase staffing to accommodate any young people who require 1 to 1 support which is identified within the placement planning meeting and arrangements. Staff may also lone work 1:1 with a child/young person where appropriate or the need arises. Senior and Therapeutic Project Workers will undertake the direct care and supervision of the children/young



Building Brighter Happier Futures

people placed at Sherards Cottage. They will conduct their role in line with good practice, organisational policies and procedures and the individual care plans for each young person. They will be allocated working roles with individual children/young people and delegated organisational responsibilities for the home as part of their personal development. There is always a senior member of staff on shift and where emergency situations may prevent this from happening there would be an experienced staff member who would be capable of taking on that responsibility. There is an on-call system within the management team that covers 24/7 that offers additional support to the staff working within Sherards Cottage.

### Supervision of staff

The company procedure and home's practice on supervisions are that;

- All contracted staff members have regular supervisions and care is taken to match up supervisors and supervisees to maximise the development of the staff.
- Supervisors are encouraged to create an open and relaxed environment during supervision so that strengths and weaknesses can be addressed in the right way. Supervisions are planned for quiet parts of the day so that staff are able to get the supervision done without being disturbed and without impacting on the care provided.
- Managers ensure that supervisees are aware of their role are able to raise queries and concerns and know who they are accountable to.

Sherards Cottage ethos considers supervisions to be integral to the role of the and development of staff and great emphasis is given to ensure occurrence and quality, staff are committed to this process and acknowledge their responsibility in being open and honest to gain the greatest insight into developing their own practice, meeting the young people's needs and contributing to the functioning of the team. These values are consistently role modelled by the Registered Manager in interactions and discussions with the staff team. Supervisions are supplemented by therapeutic supervision facilitated by the assistant Psychologist when required, equally in this time staff are encouraged to be open, honest, and reflective to look at the young people's needs and behaviours, to improve their practice with the young people and improve the team's functioning.

**20. If the staff working at the children's home are all of one sex or mainly of one sex, a description of how the children's home promotes appropriate role model of both sexes.**



Building Brighter Happier Futures

Sherards Cottage prides itself on creating a homely and relaxed atmosphere, where staff respect that they enter the young people's home every day to provide support and nurture, practical assistance, and good parenting. To that end we ensure that staff employed offer the young people opportunities to interact with a variety of adults both male and female, of a variety of ages, and from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Recruitment processes ensure that the home has the required skill, experience and personality mix to meet the individual and charismatic needs of the young people. Sherards Cottage prides itself on having a diverse adult staff team and the Manager takes great care in the recruitment process to ensure staff are being selected for Sherards Cottage to add to the range of ages, gender and personalities so the young people experience a diversity that is representative of society where possible.

## Care Planning

### **21. Any criteria used for the admission of children to the home, including any policies and procedures for emergency admission.**

#### Planned Placements

Following receipt of an initial referral from the child/young person's Social Worker, Placements Team, the following procedure will apply:-

- The referral is received by Head Office and an initial review is undertaken by them and sent to registered managers to read and comment. The Registered Manager will assess each referral/case which will require a variety of reports. Use of a matching tool determines whether to progress with the referral.



Building Brighter Happier Futures

- The Registered Manager/Area Manager will carry out a matching process to ensure that they are clear on the appropriate action needed to meet this young person needs and also to take into account the effect that this may have on the rest of the group and action to be taken to minimise disruption to others within Sherards Cottage. This additional matching process may include feedback and assessment from our Psychologist, whose response will be documented.
- Times and dates are arranged for visits to gather information about the child/ young person's background, history, likes and dislikes and to gain everyone's experience of the child/young person. It is also an opportunity to provide information on Sherards Cottage if it has not already been received.
- Following this process, a decision will be made, and an offer of placement sent to the placing authority with appropriate funding and costings for the level of need.
- Following placing authority agreement to the placement, it will be arranged for the young person to visit the home, supported by their current placement/ parent/ social worker. This is an opportunity to introduce them to the home, staff and other young people. This may include an overnight stay if appropriate. A copy of the Young person's Handbook/Guide will be given to the young person and Sherards Cottage' rules and boundaries will be discussed during this visit. This will also include the use of bedroom door alarms and fire procedures. This process will need to be continually reinforced once the child moves in as this can be an overwhelming time for the young person.
- The staff team are informed, a key worker is identified, information gathered is disseminated to the team and a consultation will take place to agree the initial placement plan.
- The key worker, in consultation with the young person, will prepare the bedroom and ensure paperwork is in place. On admission a placement planning meeting will be arranged whereby those who have parental responsibility will be requested to complete and sign all documentation such as risk assessments and consent forms.

Family and Social Worker contact will be arranged on admission and regular telephone/ email contact will be maintained throughout the assessment process.

Surecare expects the Placing Authority Social Worker to visit the child once per month (approx.). Statutory reviews take place initially within 30 days post admission, then booked Three months post admission and every six months thereafter. The statutory reviews will focus on the needs of the child, immediate, medium and long term. Sherards Cottage has an on-going commitment to working in partnership with placing authorities (both care and education), parents and other agencies in the best interest of the child.

### Short Notice Placements

Sherards Cottage will consider referrals that may be with little notice, in line with the needs of the young people already in placement. During office hours these will come through the normal referral line. Out of hours these will be handled by the homes manager /on call. Final decision for the placement of a child will be at the discretion of the Registered Manager. This will be based on completing a Risk & Management plan and Risk Assessments and matching process with the available information, matching to the other children currently placed within the home, levels of risk and available staffing. Initial information will be gathered over the phone as to the reasons the placement is required. Where possible any supporting information will be emailed to the home. Where sufficient information is not available on placement of the young person, the home has a range of generic risk assessments addressing a range of behaviours (i.e. self-harm, absconding, violence etc.) to ensure the initial safeguarding of the child, the peers and adults. Post admission all endeavors will be made to collate a chronology to inform immediate risk assessment and Placement Plan. The procedures for a planned placement will be followed wherever appropriate. Any decision to place a child at short notice placement will be done so with expectation of matching criteria and risk assessment being completed prior to admission. The placement would be reviewed at the placement planning meeting.

There will be a planning meeting as soon as possible following admission, ideally on admission. This should be diarized with the social worker/local authority, to assess the suitability of the young person to the placement. This will also identify a date for a placement planning meeting to be held with the Local authority within the first seven days to identify the longer-term plan. The Registered Manager will ensure that young people are appropriately matched to the skill base of the team and how their individual needs can be met. Consideration is also given to how the behaviours of the young people may impact on the other young people already living in the home. This will be reviewed throughout the placement, in liaison with the young person's placing authority. Where a child is placed on a short notice basis, if there is a requirement to offer additional training to staff to meet their needs, this will be identified, and necessary additional training provided as a matter of urgency.

Where this additional training requires external input, an introduction to the issues will be provided to the team and more in-depth training planned for as soon as is practicable. The impact of not receiving the training will be evaluated by the Registered Manager and this will be taken into account as part of the 72 hour review. Where a young person is admitted from outside the local authority the Registered Manager completes a notification form that is e-mailed over to the designated person at



Building Brighter Happier Futures

(Access to Resources Team) ART children within the host county of the home. (Details are held in house) This also occurs whenever a young person is discharged. This communication allows local authorities to keep track of what young people are in the local area meaning that young people have access to local support services early on in their placement and if deemed necessary the local authority can take steps to protect other people in the community from any risk the new admission may pose.

The written notification includes the following information:

- Child's Name and Date of Birth
- What order the Young person is accommodated under
- Contact details of the placing authority and IRO
- Details of any statement of educational needs for the child and the LA that maintains the statement.

These are all required under revisions to Regulation 41 with immediate effect.