



Hartlepool
Borough Council

ADULT SERVICES & PUBLIC HEALTH

Quality Standard Framework

Organisation

Greatham Foundation

Home

Stichell House

Responsible Person

Lynsey Thurlow

Date of Report

15 May 2026

Commissioned Services Team, Adult Services & Public Health

Overview of Home

Stichell House provides residential care for up to 35 residents including people living with Dementia. The home is situated in lovely grounds and is a well-maintained building and all rooms are equipped with en-suite facilities.

All people have a person-centred care plan that is monitored, reviewed and reflect the persons needs and wishes.

The home must endeavour to meet the minimum requirements for completing NEWS baseline observations and “Is my resident unwell?” tools so people’s health continue to be monitored so any concerns can be picked up as soon as possible.

Staff are generally trained, supported and have good means of communication which enables them to deliver high standards of care and staff respond quickly to residents’ needs.

Care staffing levels within the home are regularly assessed to meet peoples needs.

There are effective assurance and auditing processes to assess, monitor and drive improvement in the quality and safety of the services provided.

Summary of Outcomes

Name of Home-Stichell House

Date of Report – 15-May-2026

Determination

Person Centred Care

- 1 - Assessment & Review
- 2 - MCA & Consent
- 3 - DoLS
- 4 - Nutrition & Hydration
- 5 - Promoting Dignity, Autonomy & Choice

Outcome “Fully Met” – 15 May 2026
Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024
Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024
Outcome “Fully Met” – 15 May 2026
Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024

Safe Care and Treatment

- 6 - Safeguarding/Understanding Safeguarding
- 7 - Medication
- 8 - Infection Control
- 9 - Premises & Equipment
- 10 - Health & Safety
- 11 - Moving & Handling

Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024
Outcome “Fully Met” – 15 May 2026
Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024
Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024
Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024

Governance

- 12 - Leadership & Management
- 13 - Staffing, Recruitment, Support & Learning
- 14 - Quality Assurance
- 15 - Complaints

Outcome “Fully Met” – 15 May 2026
Outcome “Fully Met” – 15 May 2026
Outcome “Fully Met” – 15 May 2026
Outcome “Fully Met” – 21st February 2024

Person Centred Care

1 - Assessment & Review

Outcome Assessed - Substantially Met

All people receiving the service have a written care plan that is monitored and reviewed. The Home is aware that some Care Plans may not have been audited as frequently as they would like, but this being monitored to ensure information is up to date and accurate.

People's physical, mental health and social needs holistically are assessed, and their care, treatment and support is delivered in line with relevant legislation and guidance, to achieve effective outcomes.

People's care records are accurate, complete, legible, up-to-date, securely stored and available to relevant staff so that they support people to stay safe.

The service ensures that people are provided with the information and understanding about their healthcare and treatment options.

People involved in regularly monitoring their health.

People can access care, support and treatment in a timely way and referrals are made quickly to appropriate health services when people's needs change.

People contribute to planning their care and support, with their strengths, levels of independence and quality of life are taken into account.

People's care plans reflect their physical, mental, emotional and social needs and incorporate their personal history, individual preferences, interests and aspirations. Care plans are understood by staff, so people have as much choice and control as possible.

People's oral health needs are met and kept under review with professional guidance sought in a timely manner when required.

The service shares appropriate information and assessments with other relevant agencies for the benefit of people who use the service.

People's preferences and choices for their end-of-life care are recorded, reviewed and communicated and acted on where possible. Family, friends and other representatives are involved in planning, managing and making decisions about their end of life care including advanced decisions made in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The service ensures that it quickly identifies people in the last days of life whose condition may be unpredictable and change rapidly and, where required ensures that people have rapid access to support, equipment and medicines including from specialist palliative care professionals.

The service supports people's families, other people using the service and staff when someone dies.

The service has regularly provided less than the minimum number of NEWS Baseline Observations each month. On 9 of the 12 months as detailed in appendix 1. However, it is to be noted that the equipment was faulty for a short period.

There is an expectation that the home will complete the "Is My Resident Unwell" tool for each referral and that the tool will also include a NEWS2 score.

The number of 'Is My Resident Unwell' tool referrals have been consistently low during 2025/26. Improvements are required for the home to increase their % completion of IMRU in comparison to the number of escalations recorded, as the 12 month average is 25%. Further information is provided at appendix 2.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome

2 - MCA & Consent

The findings below are from the Quality Standards Framework Report for Stichell House dated 21st February 2024 at which time the home was assessed as fully achieving the outcome.

Reports from previous QSF assessments have shown the home has consistently met this outcome since the assessment framework was revised in 2021.

Source – QSF Report 21st February 2024

Staff recognise when people need and want support from their carers, advocates or representatives to help them understand and be involved in their care, treatment and support and staff help people to get this support.

The service provides information to people, their families and other carers about external bodies, community organisations and advocacy services that can provide independent support and advice about their care, treatment and support.

Staff understand the relevant consent and decision-making requirements of legislation and guidance, including the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and other relevant national guidance.

People are supported and are given the information and explanations they need to make their own decisions in line with relevant legislation and guidance.

Decisions around a person's possible lack of mental capacity are assessed and recorded.

When people lack the mental capacity to make a decision, staff ensure that best interest decisions are made in accordance with legislation.

The process for seeking consent is monitored and reviewed to ensure it meets legal requirements and follows relevant national guidance.

There are arrangements for people to be involved in decisions about managing risks appropriately including positive risk taking.

Risk management policies and procedures are in place to minimise restrictions on people's freedom, choice and control, in particular for people who lack mental capacity.

Staff are trained to understand, prevent and manage people's behaviour that challenges whilst ensuring the individual is supported appropriately.

The service identifies and meets the information and communication needs of people with a disability or sensory loss. Information is recorded, highlighted and shared with others when required with the consent of the person.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

The requirement to meet this outcome remains and the Council has monitored this throughout the year.

3 - DoLS

The findings below are from the Quality Standards Framework Report for Stichell House dated 21st February 2024 at which time the home was assessed as fully achieving the outcome. Reports from previous QSF assessments have shown the home has consistently fully met this outcome since the assessment framework was revised in 2021.

Although not all of the elements of this outcome have been assessed for this report, assessments have been undertaken to ensure the home continues to maintain processes and procedures for tracking and recording DOLS applications. The home has a matrix in place to ensure DOLS are reapplied for as required, in a timely manner. When DOLS applications have been granted, the home ensures that these are present within the care plan.

Source – QSF Report 21st February 2024

The service promotes supportive practice that avoids the need for physical restraint, however where physical restraint is necessary, the service ensures that it is used in a safe, proportionate, and monitored way as part of a person-centred support plan.

Staff recognise when people who lack mental capacity, are being deprived of their liberty and they seek authorisation to do so when considered necessary and proportionate.

All staff are trained to understand the difference between lawful and unlawful restraint practices. Action is taken to minimise the use of restraint.

Management & staff would generally recognise if someone hadn't been contacted recently but a formal process to record when this has happened, particularly those with RPR's, would make this process more robust.

The service has a system to monitor DoLS authorisations and their review dates and this is maintained. Care plans contain the most up to date Conditions attached to deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLS) authorisations.

Management has oversight on the process to ensure where a restriction may actually amount to a deprivation of liberty.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

The requirement to meet this outcome remains and the Council has monitored this throughout the year.

Outcome 4 - Nutrition & Hydration

Outcome Assessed – Fully Met

People are involved in decisions about what they eat and drink and their cultural and religious preferences are recorded, reviewed and acted upon.

People have access to dietary and nutritional specialists to help meet their assessed needs if required.

People receive prompts and encouragement to eat when needed and people enjoy mealtimes and do not feel rushed.

Risks to people with complex needs or lack capacity are identified and managed in relation to their eating and drinking.

All relevant staff have completed food hygiene training and the correct procedures are in place and followed wherever food is prepared and stored.

People have accurate nutrition and hydration assessments for eating and drinking which are carried out by knowledgeable staff.

People receive support to be independent. Their wishes are recorded, reviewed and acted upon wherever possible.

The service is aware of specialist diets, allergies, choking risks and lifestyle choices, and these are recorded, kept up to date and shared as appropriate.

People have access to specialist equipment in a timely manner to meet their assessed need.

Drinks are offered throughout the day and when required people's intake is monitored to ensure their assessed needs are being met.

People can choose the location of where they eat including the dining room, their own room or communal areas and are supported to do so.

People are offered a choice of food and drink and this is served at an appropriate temperature. Snacks are offered outside of mealtimes and are available any time of day upon request.

Residents can choose to eat in their bedroom or communal area and they are checked on regularly.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome

5 - Promoting Dignity, Autonomy & Choice **Outcome Assessed – Fully Met**

Staff show concern for people's wellbeing in a caring and meaningful way and respond to their needs in a timely manner on a day to day basis.

The service makes sure that people, and those close to them, feel like they matter, and that staff listen to them and talk to them appropriately and in a way they can understand.

People are actively involved in developing the service including:• deciding how they choose to spend their day• planning activities and outings• decisions around personal care and how and when help is provided• devising menus and the timing and place of meals, and• people are consulted when alterations to their living space is planned.

Staff seek accessible ways to communicate with people (when their protected and other characteristics under the Equality Act make this necessary) to reduce or remove barriers.

Staff know the people they are caring for and supporting, including their preferences, personal histories, backgrounds.

Staff make sure that people's privacy and dignity needs are understood and respected including during personal care.

People receive support to be independent. Their wishes are recorded, reviewed and acted upon wherever possible.

People's relatives and friends are made to feel welcome and are able to visit without being unnecessarily restricted. There are arrangements to encourage relatives and friends to provide feedback on the service.

Processes are in place to ensure there is no discrimination when making care and support decisions.

People are supported to follow their interests and take part in activities that are appropriate to them including in the wider community.

The service ensures that people are encouraged and supported to develop and maintain relationships with people that matter to them, both within the service and the wider community to avoid social isolation.

The service does not have a nominated Dementia champion(s) to oversee standards in the service.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome

Safe Care & Treatment

Outcome 6 - Safeguarding/Understanding Safeguarding

The findings below are from the Quality Standards Framework Report for Stichell House dated 21st February 2024 at which time the home was assessed as fully achieving the outcome. Reports from previous QSF assessments have shown the home has consistently met this outcome since the assessment framework was revised in 2021.

Although not all of the elements of this outcome have been assessed for this report, assessments have been undertaken to ensure safeguarding referrals are completed when incidents occur, appropriate investigations take place and the outcome is shared with the resident, families and advocates.

A safeguarding log is maintained to ensure the home and professionals can track progress from start to finish including analysis of lessons learned. The home continues to have a robust Whistle Blowing Policy and staff are aware of the escalation process should this be required.

Safeguarding trends have been analysed.

Source – QSF Report 21st February 2024

Safeguarding systems, processes and practices are in place, staff are aware and any updates are communicated to staff.

Systems, processes and practices protect people from abuse, neglect, harassment and breaches of their dignity and respect.

Staff can recognise signs of potential abuse and know what to do when abuse is suspected.

Processes are in place to ensure people are protected from discrimination, harassment and abuse, in line with the Equality Act.

People are supported to understand what safeguarding means, and they are encouraged to raise any concerns.

If people are subject to a safeguarding investigation, they are supported during this process.

Staff understand their responsibilities to raise concerns, to record safety incidents, concerns and near misses, and to report them internally and externally, where appropriate.

There are processes for reviewing and investigating safeguarding incidents when incidents occur. All relevant staff, services, partner organisations and people who use services are involved in reviews and investigations.

Safeguarding investigations, reviews and audits ensure lessons can be learned to improve how care, treatment and support is delivered.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

Outcome 7 – Medication

Outcome Assessed - Fully Met

It is vitally important that the service ensures the Council are fully informed of all medication incidents and near misses. It is mandated by the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board that Councils collect this information from all regulated services. The Council therefore requires homes to provide a monthly schedule of incidents or a statement of “nil return”. The service has complied with this requirement having submitted information on 12 occasions in the last 12 months – see appendix 3 for further information.

The medication outcome has been assessed by the Medicines Optimisation Service further information can be found in the Assessment Report dated 30-May-2025 appended to this report.

The home scored highly in their audit but some minor areas have been identified for improvement and the home must work towards the action plan set by the Medicines optimisation team.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

Outcome 8 - Cleanliness and infection control

The findings below are from the Quality Standards Framework Report for Stichell House dated 21st February 2024 at which time the home was assessed as fully achieving the outcome. Reports from previous QSF assessments have shown the home has consistently fully met this outcome since the assessment framework was revised in 2021.

Although not all of the elements of this outcome have been assessed for this report, evidence has been provided to confirm the home has completed Infection Control Workbooks regularly and has appointed an Infection Control Champion who has undertaken a training course with the Infection Prevention Control Service from the University Hospital of Hartlepool & North Tees to ensure they fully understand the remit of the role. The service has completed a self assessment of their work practices and scored 100% although this has not been verified.

Source – QSF Report 21st February 2024

There are arrangements for making sure that premises are kept clean and hygienic so that people are protected from infections that could affect both staff and people using services. This includes:- Up to date Policy and procedure- Staff Training, including with the IPC Nurses- Necessary resources- Risk Assessments- Cleaning Records/Schedules- Quality Audits

Staff understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to infection control and hygiene and providers support with this.

Policies and procedures are maintained and followed in line with current relevant national guidance.

The service ensures that it alerts the right external agencies (e.g. HBC, visitors and professionals) to concerns around infections that affect people's health and wellbeing.

The Service completes regular Hand Hygiene documentation and has a designated IPC Champion who has attended the IPC Study Day. The Service has up to date IPC workbook/training.

The Service provides and maintains a clean and appropriate environment in managed premises that facilitates the prevention and control of infections.

The Service engages with and updates the Infection Control Nurses when required.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

Outcome 9 - Premises & Equipment

The findings below are from the Quality Standards Framework Report for Stichell House dated 21st February 2024 at which time the home was assessed as fully achieving the outcome.

Reports from previous QSF assessments have shown the home has consistently fully met this outcome since the assessment framework was revised in 2021.

Source – QSF Report 21st February 2024

Technology is used to support people to receive timely care and support and is easy to use. However, usage of the National Early Warning Score (NEWS) tool was often below average occupancy during 2023.

Equipment, which is owned or used by the provider, is managed to support people to stay safe.

The premises and safety of communal and personal spaces (such as bedrooms) and the living environment are checked and managed to support people to stay safe.

Learning from lessons is shared and themes are identified to make sure that action is taken to improve safety across relevant parts of the service. Staff learn from reviews and investigations by other services and organisations.

The service has arrangements to respond to relevant external safety alerts, recalls, inquiries, investigations and reviews. Information is shared to staff when appropriate.

People are involved in decisions about the environment. Any changes to the environment are managed to avoid causing distress to people who live there.

People have access to appropriate spaces: • in gardens and other outdoor spaces • to see and look after their visitors • for meaningful activities • to spend time together • to be alone.

The signage, decoration and other adaptations to the premises help to meet people's needs and promote their independence.

The premises meet people's diverse care, cultural and support needs.

Staff with responsibility for maintaining equipment are appropriately trained to ensure it is fit for purpose.

There are plans for responding to emergencies or untoward events, and these are understood by all staff.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

The requirement to meet this outcome remains and the Council has monitored this throughout the year.

Outcome 10 - Health & Safety

It has not been possible to complete the Health & Safety Assessment and verification this year. The Council will continue to develop the process for further assessment outside of the Quality Standards Framework.

Outcome 11 - Moving & Handling

The findings below are from the Quality Standards Framework Report for Stichell House dated 21st February 2024 at which time the home was assessed as fully achieving the outcome.

Reports from previous QSF assessments have shown the home has consistently met this outcome since the assessment framework was revised in 2021.

Source – QSF Report 21st February 2024

There is an up to date Moving and Handling Policy in place.

People who use the service are assessed in relation to their mobility needs and referrals are made to specialist agencies in a timely manner. Services using specialist equipment include an OT assessment.

The service ensures that risk assessments are robust and appropriate.

There is professional instruction/task guidance detailed in people's support plans, which is in date and followed by staff.

People are encouraged to assist, where safe to do so, in their own transfers.

When support is being given to move people, reassurance is given in a compassionate manner by staff.

The service has procedures in place to ensure that staff have skills, competencies, qualifications, experience and knowledge, to meet people's individual needs. The Service can evidence that:(a) Staff have had Moving and Handling Training within the last 12 months.(b) Moving and handling training is provided by a competent trainer.(c) Trained staff monitor staff techniques on a periodic basis.

Equipment is checked, maintained and serviced to ensure it is safe for staff and people to use.

Moving and handling equipment is used in accordance with manufacturer's guidance.

There been no near misses or accidents whilst hoisting in the last 12 months.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

The requirement to meet this outcome remains and the Council has monitored this throughout the year.

Governance

Outcome 12 - Leadership & Management

Outcome Assessed - Fully Met

There is a registered manager in post.

There are arrangements including within the rotas, for making sure that staffing levels are sufficient, staff have the right mix of skills, competencies, qualifications, experience and knowledge, to meet people's individual needs and personal preferences are accounted for where possible.

Managers are aware of the day-to-day culture in the service including the attitudes, values and behaviour of staff. They encourage staff to feel positive and proud to work in the organisation

The manager makes sure that staff are supported, respected and valued. Their rights and wellbeing are protected and they are motivated, and caring.

The service shows honesty and transparency from all levels of staff and leadership following an incident. This is shared with people using the service and their families in line with the duty of candour. The service ensures people are supported when incidents occur.

Leaders have the skills, knowledge, experience and integrity they need to lead and inspire staff effectively.

The service has a clear vision and set of values and leaders make sure that these are promoted and understood by staff and embedded into practice.

The organisation promotes equality and inclusion within its workforce and all staff have up to date equality and diversity training.

Staff are actively involved in developing the service.

There are strong links with the local community which have a positive impact on the service.

The service works in partnership with key organisations, including the local authority, safeguarding teams and Integrated Care Board (ICB) and multidisciplinary teams, to support care provision, service development and joined-up care.

The service has clear disciplinary procedures which are followed when it identifies that staff are responsible for unsafe practice.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

Outcome 13 - Staffing, Recruitment, Support & Learning

Outcome Assessed - Fully Met

All staff have received appropriate induction upon commencement of employment.

Throughout 2025 there has been an increase in training undertaken by staff, and this continues to be monitored by the management team to ensure this is maintained.

Staff receive feedback from managers in a constructive and motivating way, which enables them to know what action they need to take.

The service makes sure that responsibility and accountability is understood at all levels with clear and transparent processes in place for staff to account for their decisions, actions, behaviours and performance.

Staff are supported and protected when raising concerns and questioning practice including whistle-blowers.

Safety is promoted in recruitment practices, arrangements to support staff, training arrangements, disciplinary procedures and observations.

Staff respond in a compassionate, timely and appropriate way when people experience physical pain, discomfort or emotional distress.

People have their assessed needs, preferences and choices met by staff with the right qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience.

Staff are supported to keep their professional practice and knowledge updated in line with best practice.

Some staff did not always receive regular supervision and appraisal, however, supervision and appraisals continue to improve in regularity with oversight of senior management to ensure completion.

Staff teams work collaboratively, share responsibility and resolve conflict quickly and constructively. There are cooperative, supportive and appreciative relationships among staff.

There are effective systems of communication to ensure information is shared timely and appropriately so staff can carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively.

The service gives staff the time, training and support they need to provide care and support in a compassionate and personal way. Staff have time to listen to people, answer their questions, provide information and involve people in decisions

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

Outcome 14 - Quality Assurance
Outcome Assessed - Fully Met

The service maintains a log of whistleblowing, staff concerns, safeguarding and accidents or incidents and investigates each incident thoroughly. Action plans are developed and monitored to ensure actions are completed.

When incidents occur, they are investigated and analysed to look for common themes and trends to ensure lessons are learned. Action is taken to continually drive improvement.

The service ensures that its approach to quality is integral, and all staff are aware of potential risks that may compromise quality.

The service enables and encourage accessible open communication with all people who use the service including their family, friends, staff and representatives.

People's views and experiences are gathered and acted on to shape and improve the services and culture.

Resources and support is available to develop staff and teams and drive improvement, examples of these were provided by the manager.

Quality assurance systems enable the service to evaluate and learn from current performance ensuring continuous improvement and to improve future performance.

Success and innovation is recognised, encouraged and implemented

The service ensures that the delivery of care, treatment and support is in line with current local and national guidance.

The provider is accredited as standards are met or approaching standards in the DPST Toolkit.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

Outcome 15 - Complaints

The findings below are from the Quality Standards Framework Report for Stichell House dated 21st February 2024 at which time the home was assessed as fully achieving the outcome.

Reports from previous QSF assessments have shown the home has consistently fully met this outcome since the assessment framework was revised in 2021.

Source – QSF Report 21st February 2024

People who use the service are provided with information on how to make a complaint or raise concerns and this is regularly promoted.

The complaints process is accessible, is easy for people to raise a concern or complaint and is encouraged.

There is a formal log of complaints which is kept up to date. Complaints are handled effectively with openness, transparency and confidentiality. The complainant receives regular updates, a timely response and an explanation of the outcome including the appeals process.

People who raise concerns or complaints are protected from discrimination, harassment or disadvantage and are supported throughout the process.

Concerns and complaints are used as an opportunity to learn and promote continuous improvement and examples of this were evidenced.

The Home has demonstrated achievement of this outcome.

The requirement to meet this outcome remains and the Council has monitored this throughout the year.

Appendix 1 NEWS score

NEWS Usage	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
Home	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy	% NEWS by bed occupancy
Stichell House	55	14	0	113	67	85	73	18	136	97	100	71

Appendix 2 Is My Resident Unwell

IMRU Stichell House 2025/26	Apr-25			May-25			Jun-25			Jul-25			Aug-25			Sep-25		
	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %
	10	0	0	5	0	0	24	0	0	14	3	21	9	0	0	6	1	17
	Oct-25			Nov-25			Dec-25			Jan-26			Feb-26			Mar-26		
	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %	No. of health escalations	Total IMRU completed	Monthly %
	8	6	75	11	0	0	12	6	50	12	6	50	13	5	38	9	5	56

Appendix 3 Medication Incidents

