



# Here & Now

## Children's Services

### Management Plan for Children's home-C2 Application

#### **How many children would be accommodated?**

There will be a maximum of three children accommodated between the ages of eight and eighteen. We will try and match the young peoples ages appropriately, for example we would not house an 8 year old with an 18 year old but would look to match them with someone around their age. Thus keeping in line with a family feel. Each young person will be assessed and matched with the home prior to admission, to ensure that they fit in with the homes values and ethos, as well as being well suited to meet the needs of the other children in placement. For example, a young person who has significant mental health needs, where restraint and the use of intravenous medication is needed to manage their behaviour would not be housed. This is due to our home not offering this type of support and behaviour management.

#### **What is the ratio of staff to children that is required**

There will be a maximum of three staff members (excluding manager) at any one time. In total, we presume that each staff member would use their own transport to get to the home which would lead to a maximum of four cars at the property for the general running of the home. We have assessed the availability of parking at the property and there is sufficient parking down the side of the house (within boundary) and directly in front of the house to accommodate these vehicles. As the home is on a commuting route, as a company we will be promoting the use of public transport and car sharing to and from the home. Having four vehicles at the property would not compromise the environment given this a four bed house.

#### **What is the likely level of need of the children accommodated i.e. is there a focus on complex needs**

As per our statement of purpose, our main area of need will be young people who are at risk of homelessness, foster placement breakdown and in need on long term care. We are hoping to support young people long term to reduce the disruption of changing placements to the young person. We envisage that these young people will display some emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, but we will ensure that they are care planned and a robust behaviour management plan is in place. We work on a least restrictive basis, which means minimal physical intervention for the young people, but we use behaviour management strategies and would not be involving external agencies such as police, unless there was an immediate risk to life. This would be no different to any domestic family that may reside in the property.

We will not be accommodating young people who have a physical disability or significant additional needs as we do not believe that our service would best fit this presentation. We will be promoting education and offsite activities as much as possible reducing the impact of the young people on the community. We have a



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strong focus on supporting the young people to be engaged in community activities and to make positive contributions to the local community.

### **What is the likely shift pattern of staff**

Our shift patterns run as an Early (0800-1600), Late (1600-2200), Sleep in and Waking Night (2200-0800). The home manager will be on the premises Monday to Friday 8am-4pm. These shifts individually are 8hours long, however, staff members will have the opportunity to work long days which will cause less disruption for the local residents. Initially, we envisage having one young person on site for a minimum of six weeks before accepting another person. We have chosen these working hours, as they fit in with general shift patterns and a normal working day for the local area, causing less disruption during higher trafficked times. There will be a slight overlap of staff and shift members, however, these will be restricted and for a short period of time ensuring disruption to the surrounding neighbours is kept to a minimum.

This means that they will be supported by the home manager and one residential. In terms of local disruption, this will be no different to the house remaining a residential property and housing a large family all who drive. This house has three double bedrooms and one single room and could easily house a family with two parents and five children.

### **What support officers would be likely to visit the property**

We are aiming to ensure that family contact arrangements are completed away from the property. This is to reduce the impact on the residents and reduce the amount of traffic going too and from the home. This is also to keep the safety of the other young people who are residing with us. We will need to facilitate visits from social workers, independent visitors, independent reviewing officers and therapists. We are looking to have an allocated parking bay for these to use to ensure that there is no disruption to the current parking arrangements. Equally these visits are usually done during working hours Monday to Friday, and not impacting on the residents evenings and weekends.

### **How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support worker meetings take place at the property**

Visits from external professionals will be booked in with the home according to availability of the young person and staff. We will be operating a policy on no more than one visitor at one time and these will be professionals only. This is to reduce the impact on residents and also prevent the need to extend the property to facilitate more than one visit. general family homes do not have restrictions on the amount of people who can visit their property at one time. However, we understand that the



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nature of our proposal can be daunting for the local residents so we are trying to reduce the impact as much as possible.

In terms of whole staff meetings, we will be encouraging these meetings to take place within the local area away from the home. We cannot definitely say that there will be no time that the whole team will need to be together in house (particularly before we have any young people with us), should this be required we will ensure that disruption to local residents will be kept to a minimum but encouraging the use of car sharing/public transport and off street parking. We will also ensure that these meetings are kept to the day time and restricted to a maximum of two hours, as well as start promptly to prevent consistent footfall for a prolonged period of time.

Should we be required to have a whole staff team meeting at the property this will be 11 staff members in total. The house has enough space to facilitate this as there are two large living areas, but as mentioned we will be encouraging these meetings to be offsite.

### **If residents are unable to participate in full-time, mainstream education what educational support would be offered on-site.**

As mentioned all our young people will be assessed accordingly. We would not be able to accommodate more than one young person being educated on site at one time. Our emphasis is to engage young people in offsite education as much as possible with top up education being completed within the home. The local authority offer is that schools should be providing a minimum of 25hours of education per child per week. This should be completed offsite. If not in mainstream education, we would be encouraging the use of the local amenities to support education rather than being in house. Our ethos is to create a nurturing and therapeutic environment which means promoting the use of offsite educational facilities. We will be working closely with the local authority to ensure that this is being achieved.

### **Would therapeutic care be offered onsite**

The short answer is no, our practice and interventions will be therapeutically guided and each young person will have a therapy offer of one session per week. Initially the introductory setting would be done within the home but subsequent sessions will be completed offsite. We will require staff to transport young people too and from their therapy sessions. The use of the car journey will be to offer the young people a reflective space to process the intervention they have just received.

### **Would case reviews take place on or off site.**

Looked after children are expected to attend six monthly looked after child reviews. We will not be promoting these on site due to the difficulties these discussions may



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have on the young people. We will be expecting that these are facilitated within their educational settings or within safe spaces provided by the local authority.

### **Are friends and relatives of residents able to visit at any time.**

No, we will not be encouraging open visiting times. Each young persons visits will be care planned and completed away from the property. This is to ensure the safety of other young people in our care and to provide a strong routine for young people.

### **Will the property be OFSTED registered**

Yes, we are awaiting agreement of the planning permission before we submit our documents to OFSTED. We will NOT be offering our service as an unregulated placement.

### **Are children ever left alone at the property**

No, our young people will be supervised at all times, we operate the use of a waking night staff member to ensure their safety within the home.

### **Under what circumstances are the children allowed to leave the property**

Our young people will be allowed to leave the property for education purposes, to attend appointments, to attend activities completed away from the home and for general pleasure. We are not a secure children's home so there will be no locked doors, however, the young people will be risk assessed and care planned in regards to leaving the property. We envisage that most young people in our care will initially require to be supervised when leaving the property, however, as they are getting closer to independence we will be promoting them to have more autonomy outside of the care home. This would be no different to a local resident having teenage children coming and going from their home.

### **Would staff members be informed/aware if a child has left the property**

Yes, there will be weekly timetables for the young people and staff are to ensure they register young people in and out of the home where possible. There will be no reliance on local residents to inform staff of the whereabouts of the young people.

### **Is there a curfew**

Yes, young people will be expected to return to the property before 2230 and there will be no facilitated leave between 2230 and 0730. This is the latest and earliest times we are allowing young people on and off the site. However, this will be age and ability assessed, for example an 8 year old will require an earlier curfew then 2230, however an 18year old would be expected to return no later than 2230. This would be no different to what parents would expect of their children, should the home not be a residential home.



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### **What would happen in the event of a breach of curfew?**

We have in place a behaviour management plan for each young person and also an Ofsted agreed missing procedure. These can be requested by the residents should they require further information around the behaviour management of the young people. Should the young person breach the curfew we will be working in line with procedures to prevent this from happening again. We must remember, that these young people display regular teenage behaviours and there will be times when they do breach these terms.

### **What security provisions are proposed would CCTV be installed**

We will not be installing any locks on the doors that are not found in regular residential homes. We will be installing CCTV to monitor the front door, this will most likely be in the form of a Ring Doorbell. Our doors will be locked from 2230 to 0730 which would be no different to standard residential home. We will not be installing any access controlled doors.

### **How would local residents know how to raise a concern in the event of an issue.**

We would encourage local residents to contact the responsible individual of the care provider. Prior to opening we will be visiting local residents to provide them with our contact information and to answer any questions they have on the opening of this home. We will also be holding six monthly contact sessions for local residents so they can meet the team and ask any questions that they feel are necessary. We will aim to arrange the first meeting with residents prior to accepting our first young person.