

Proposed Use of the Property: 33 Ivy Street, Huddersfield, HD4 5RB

This property is proposed to serve as a nurturing, safe, and supportive home for one child at a time, aged between 7 and 17 years. The child will receive tailored support from highly trained staff, typically on a 2:1 staffing ratio, allowing for one-on-one care where necessary.

We intend to place local children in care, under the responsibility of Kirklees Council, within this home. To support this initiative, we have been in communication with Mr. Gary Wainwright, the Commissioning Manager for the Kirklees Children's and Families Department, to better understand the Council's specific needs and requirements.

Staffing Arrangements

- **Support Staff:** A maximum of two staff members will be present on-site at any one time. Staff operate on 24-hour shifts (10:00 am to 10:00 am), reducing movement in and out of the home and promoting a stable, family-style environment.
- **Manager:** A designated home manager will oversee operations and is contracted for office hours. The manager may work remotely via Microsoft Teams, attending the property 2–5 days per week for a few hours, as required. This managerial arrangement supports the residential use classification.

Engagement with the community

It is essential for the home to integrate seamlessly within the local community, fostering positive relationships between the Manager, staff, and neighbours. We are committed to actively participating in community life and will maintain regular communication with those in the surrounding area. We will be considerate and respectful neighbours, and we will also encourage and support the children and young people in our care to do the same.

Property and Parking

- The property is a semi-detached residential dwelling with two dedicated parking spaces available in tandem formation. This ensures no impact on local traffic or congestion. Visitors will have the option to park either at the front road, where parking is unrestricted. I will make certain that all guests are mindful of the neighbours and adhere to considerate parking practices.
- No external structural changes are proposed. Any internal adaptations, such as installing lockable bedroom doors, will be minimal and will not affect the residential appearance or function of the home.

Support and Daily Activities

The home is designed to support children with a range of emotional and behavioural needs, particularly those with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders (EBD). A therapeutic and de-escalatory approach is embedded in staff training.

Children will attend school or alternative education settings off-site, ensuring daily routines reflect those of a typical household. Medical and health appointments will take place at external locations such as GP surgeries or hospitals, further reducing activity at the property.

Professional Visitors

- Social Workers: Typically visit every 3–6 months depending on care requirements.
- Other Professionals: Occasional visits from therapists, tutors, or medical staff may occur. At times, up to 4–5 professionals may attend simultaneously for scheduled reviews, though many multi-agency meetings will be conducted remotely via Teams.

Security and Safety Measures

- The home will include lockable doors for private areas and offices to ensure safety.
- Interlinked smoke alarms will be installed in all key areas: bedrooms, hallways, kitchen, and living areas.
- Discreet external CCTV cameras will be installed for security while preserving the property's residential appearance.

Duration of Stay and Comings and Goings

Children are expected to reside in the home for medium to long-term placements (typically 2 years or more), which supports emotional stability and reduces disruptions. With staff sleeping overnight and minimal external traffic, comings and goings will reflect those of a standard family home.

Fire and Safety Precautions

The home will adhere to all relevant standards outlined in the fire risk assessment, which is reviewed and updated annually. This includes the installation of a comprehensive fire alarm system, fire doors, and fire extinguishers. The Registered Manager will be responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of the home's fire safety policies and procedures. Firefighting equipment will be inspected weekly by staff, with external agencies conducting further inspections every 6 to 12 months.

All young people will be made fully aware of evacuation procedures, which will be explained to them either prior to or upon admission. This information will also be included in the Children's Guide.

Fire Safety Precautions:

- The fire alarm system is tested weekly by staff, with any faults promptly reported and documented. Fire call points and door closures are tested alternately on a weekly basis.
- Firefighting equipment is inspected weekly by staff and documented accordingly. Additionally, named contractors perform regular checks on all equipment. Any fire extinguishers stored behind closed doors will be subject to a thorough risk assessment.

- Fire evacuation drills are conducted monthly, signed off by a manager, and recorded accurately. All children are encouraged to participate in a practice drill as soon as possible after admission, as are all new staff members.
- All permanent staff members are informed of the relevant fire safety procedures during their induction and receive fire marshal training, including the use of fire extinguishing equipment.
- Visitors will be briefed on fire evacuation points, procedures, and assembly points upon entering the premises. This information will also be incorporated into the Children's Guide.

Additionally, exit doors will be fitted with buzzers to alert staff of anyone leaving the home during the night. All doors will be equipped with thumb-turn locks, enabling children to lock their doors for privacy. External doors will also feature thumb-turn locks, allowing residents to exit quickly in the event of an emergency, such as a fire.

Supporting local people and business

The new home will create employment opportunities for local residents. Wherever possible, we will prioritise the recruitment of experienced and skilled staff from the local community, enabling them to either walk to work or use public transportation.

The area of Crosland moor and its surrounding offer a variety of shops, supermarkets, recreational activities, clubs, and other community resources, all of which will be easily accessible to both staff and young people. Our home will contribute directly to supporting and enriching the local economy.

Conclusion

The proposed use of 33 Ivy Street as a small residential children's home maintains the property's residential character, involves low and consistent occupancy, has no significant impact on traffic, parking, or local amenities, and will not result in a material change in the character of the property in planning terms. The home will provide essential care in a stable, community-focused environment while preserving the amenity and character of the surrounding area.