



Knowsley Council

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Validation Proforma for Children's Homes

1. Home and Location Assessment (Planning Applications Only)

Requirement	Response
a. Evidence of need for Children's Care Home in the Area this must include liaison with Knowsley Council Children's Services	The applicant has engaged in early discussions with Knowsley Council, including Rebecca Hastie and Dan Evans, who have expressed support for the proposal. There is a well-documented and ongoing demand for high-quality, small-scale children's homes within the borough, particularly for solo and high-acuity placements. The applicant already operates one Ofsted-registered children's home in Knowsley rated "Good", with a second home due to become operational within the next 6 weeks. This proposal represents the third provision in the borough and responds directly to identified local sufficiency needs
b. Evidence that the proposed Children's Care Home location and format aligns with the type of accommodation needed by Knowsley.	The proposed development delivers a solo or dual occupancy children's home, which aligns with Knowsley's identified need for smaller, specialist placements designed for children with complex emotional and behavioural needs. This model reduces placement breakdown, minimises risk, and supports stability, making it suitable for children who require intensive support and consistent care
c. A justification and explanation as to the appropriateness of the premises. To include the identification of hazards and control to be put in place including the local and wider environment. This must include liaison with Merseyside Police regarding County Lines, missing persons, general hazards and exploitation.	The property is a high-quality residential dwelling that will be upgraded to meet all Ofsted and building regulation standards, including installation of an L1 fire alarm system. The applicant takes a proactive safeguarding approach and will engage with Merseyside Police regarding localised risks such as: • County Lines activity • Missing from care risks

	• Child exploitation • General community safety The premises is considered appropriate due to its residential setting, ability to be secured and adapted, and suitability for providing a safe, nurturing environment.
d. Identified hazards and controls to be put in place including but not limited to: i. Risks of injury within the home including access to roof ii. Traffic, Railway, Waterways, Risks of Child Sexual Exploitation, Risk of Gangs, Crime, Anti-social Behaviour, Risks of Missing from Care, Risk of Substance Abuse, Drug Involvement. iii. Please include agencies who you have consulted as part of the risk assessment.	• Controlled access to loft/roof spaces • Window restrictors and secure fixtures • Regular health & safety audits ii. External risks: • Traffic: Risk assessed; children supervised at all times • Railways / waterways: Site-specific risks assessed and managed in care plans • CSE / exploitation / gangs / crime: ○ Staff trained in safeguarding and exploitation awareness ○ Close liaison with local police and safeguarding teams • Missing from care: ○ 2:1 staffing model significantly reduces risk ○ Individual risk assessments and robust protocols • Substance misuse / drug involvement: ○ Staff training, monitoring and partnership working with local services iii. Agencies consulted: • Knowsley Council (Children's Services & Planning) • Merseyside Police (to be formally engaged pre-operation) • Ofsted (registration process)
d. That the premises is located in a suitable and sustainable location; This must include	

an assessment of accessibility, local amenities and social infrastructure	The property is located in an established residential area with good access to: • Public transport • Local schools and specialist educational provisions • Health services (GP, CAMHS) • Community facilities and recreational spaces This ensures children can access education, healthcare, and social opportunities, supporting positive outcomes and integration
e. That it provides suitable access and parking provision to accommodate activity associated with the premises.	The property benefits from adequate street parking. Staff will minimise impact through: • Shift coordination • Car sharing • Use of public transport where appropriate Visitor numbers are low due to the solo placement model, so traffic impact is minima

2. Management Plan (Planning Applications and Lawful Development Certificates)

Requirement	Response
a. The name of the company proposing to operate the facility and background.	Compassionate Children's Care and Support is an experienced private social care provider specialising in high-quality children's residential care. The organisation currently operates:

	• One Ofsted-rated “Good” children’s home in Knowsley • One additional home in Knowsley opening within 6 weeks This demonstrates a proven track record of safe, compliant, and effective service delivery
b. Whether the home will be registered with ofsted and any evidence of communication with ofsted relevant to this home?	The home will be registered with Ofsted prior to operation. The provider has extensive experience working with Ofsted and will follow all regulatory requirements through the registration process
c. i. Type of provision (e.g. crisis, short or long term) and statement of purpose c. ii. Type of registration (emotional and behavioural difficulties, mental disorders, sensory, present alcohol problems, present drug problems, learning difficulty, physical disabilities)	Solo, long-term residential care for children with emotional and behavioural needs requiring high levels of support. ii. Registration category: Primarily: • Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD) Potential to support additional needs (non-complex physical or learning needs) where appropriate • Children with a Learning disability
d. How many children would be accommodated and the age range (lower and upper limit)?	Solo provision at the property. Age range between 7 and 17 years of age.
e. What will happen if any children reach 18? Will they remain?	Placements are for children under 18. Where a young person approaches adulthood, transition planning will be undertaken with the placing authority. They would not remain indefinitely post-18 unless formally agreed under appropriate frameworks.

f. What is the ratio of staff to children that is required i.e. delivery model?	2:1
g. What is the likely level of need of the children accommodated i.e. is there a focus on complex needs? Will the home have a particular specialism?	The home will support children with complex emotional and behavioural needs , including those at risk of placement breakdown. The focus is on stabilisation, relationship-based care, and positive behavioural outcomes
h. What is the likely shift pattern of staff i.e. how many staff (management and care staff) would likely be at the premises at any one time and when would shift changes occur? A staff Rota should be provided.	As per noted within planning statement. This can be adapted via planning condition if required.
i. What support officers would be likely to visit the property?	The property may be visited by: • Social workers • Independent Reviewing Officers • Ofsted inspectors • Therapists and healthcare professionals • Education providers
j. How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support-workers meetings take place at the property?	Visits will be pre-arranged wherever possible and managed to minimise disruption. Staff meetings may occasionally take place at the property but are typically managed off-site or virtually

k. Is the intention that the children cared for at the property will be home schooled or will they attend local schools? If children will be home schooled, will additional teachers/tutors attend the premises and how often.	The occupying child will be encouraged to participate in a form of education, may this be mainstream school, or more commonly a specialist provision. Children will attend mainstream school, a specialist provision or a virtual school. We do not propose for our young person to be home tutored.
l. Would therapeutic care be offered on-site?	Yes, where required. Therapeutic input (e.g. counselling or behavioural support) may be provided at the property or in community settings depending on the child's needs
m. Would case reviews taken place on or off-site?	Generally held off-site or virtually, although on-site meetings may occur occasionally where appropriate
n. Are children ever left alone unsupervised at the property?	No
o. Under what circumstances are children allowed to leave the property?	Children may leave the property in line with their care plan and risk assessment, usually accompanied by staff
p. Would staff members be informed/aware if a child left the property?	Yes, any child that leaves the property would be always accompanied by at least one adult care worker.
q. Is there a curfew?	Curfews are individualised and agreed within the child's placement plan

r. What would happen in the event of a breach of the curfew?	Any breach would be managed under safeguarding and missing-from-care procedures, including liaison with police and the placing authority where required
s. What security provisions are proposed e.g. security and access controls on doors?	All the property will be securely adapted and registered with Ofsted to comply with all current regulations.
t. Would CCTV be installed?	No.
u. How would local residents know how to raise a concern in the event of an issue?	A system would be in place to make any comments or complaints to managing staff. A WhatsApp group will be set up for immediate neighbours to raise any concerns also.
v. How long is each placement within the children's care home?	They would be looking at long term placements for the child residing at the property.
w. Would any rooms be used as a dedicated meeting, training or therapy room?	A room within the property may be used flexibly for meetings or therapeutic sessions if required.

x. Would the parents or family of the children visit the home and, if so, how often is this likely to take place?	Family visits will be encouraged where appropriate and agreed within care plans. Frequency will depend on individual circumstances and local authority arrangements.
y. What dedicated parking provision (if any) exists for the dwelling and how is it intended to control vehicle movements and parking associated with the use arising from staff and other visitors?	No dedicated parking on site. Street parking is available and as per planning statement, staff will car share and use public transport when necessary.