

Background and Basis

Millbrook Manor

Neo Vida Limited will provide a unique service bridging a current gap within the sector for Children who are in care/coming into care. The aim is to invest in young Children with early intervention strategies to build emotional resilience to support them to have a positive future.

Millbrook Manor is a large home within the affluent area of Knowsley Village. The home has been renovated to an extremely high standard, with excellent facilities to enable a secure, safe and outstanding environment for Children and Young People. It sits within its own grounds on almost an acre of land, with easy access to local amenities and public transport.

The number of Children coming into care is increasing (Children's Commissioner 2023), whilst the number of Foster Carers are decreasing (The Fostering Network, 2023).

As a result of this, Children are being placed in unsuitable accommodation not matched to their needs. This can lead to placements breaking down, causing further disruption, rejection and trauma to the Children, who have often already encountered adverse childhood experiences.

Also, Children are being placed in unregulated placements such as hotels with security staff, caravans and houses with untrained/unqualified staff (BBC, 2002). A further risk is children whose plan is not residential, being placed into residential due to lack of available placements. These Children are then being exposed to behaviours they have not previously seen (such as self-harm, missing from care, using illegal substances), placing them at risk and vulnerable for learned behaviour.

Millbrook Manor is a unique setting, whereby we are offering a home for Children who ideally should be living in foster care, however due to availability and declining numbers, there are no foster carers available.

Having the opportunity to create healthy, positive, trusting relationships, secure attachment and resilience, our Children are more likely to move on to successful foster placements/rehabilitation home.

This will happen, by ensuring the care team have understanding, experience and training to understand Young Children's emotional development. They will be trauma informed and trauma responsive.

We understand it is imperative the emotional building blocks for all Children start on admission, therefore, our focus and ethos are to ensure every Child grows to have a sense of belonging at Millbrook Manor and strong attachments with caring key person and the care team. This will help transition into a family environment.

Millbrook Manor offers a provision whereby Children have somewhere safe, stable and suited to their needs, whilst allowing a period of comprehensive assessment, intervention and thorough matching for long term planning.

We are committed to creating holistic care plans for Children, including input from our in-house therapist and occupational therapist.

Millbrook Manor has 10 bedrooms in total, offering a large, outstanding quality care environment we offer the opportunity to address the social, emotional and behaviour needs of every child. Research evidences the benefits of living in a larger home (Children and young people now, 2021).

As well as the 10 bedrooms in the home (one for each child), there are ample bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 large lounges as well as recreation spaces, cinema room, family and therapy rooms.

We offer Knowsley, along with other boroughs in The Liverpool City Region, safe, stable and therapeutic placements for Children in a high quality, therapeutic loving home.

Clarifications

A justification and explanation as to the appropriateness of the premises for the proposed children's home.

The home is a modern, spacious living environment, is highly accessible and decorated to a high standard. It has substantial grounds and outdoor space as well as adequate provision for parking. The building was previously a school and its purpose is echoed in the transition to a loving and caring home for children and young people.

What are the age ranges of the children to be accommodated?

5-17 prioritising admission between the ages of 5-12.

How long is each placement within the children's care home?

Dependant on the specific care plan for each child, anything from 2 weeks up to their 18th birthday.

What is the ratio of staff to children that is required?

3 staff to 5 children.

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 specialise in therapeutic care, focusing on children who have recently come into care. The aim of the home is to provide therapy to children at the point it is needed, for them to progress to have a successful future.

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?

The pattern is day/night shifts. A change - over will occur at 8am, 3pm and 9:45pm. The daytime staff will consist of the residential workers at the ratio mentioned above, in addition to the 2 managers, and therapist(s).

What support officers would be likely to visit the property?

The Social Workers for the children will visit the property. The police are also working alongside the company to ensure a positive working relationship for the home and the community.

How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support-workers meetings take place at the property?

It is a statutory requirement that children are visited by their social worker 6 weekly as a minimum. These visits can be planned or unplanned.
A monthly team meeting will take place for the whole staff team.

If residents are unable to participate in full-time mainstream education, what educational support would be offered on-site and what educational staff are needed onsite?

The home would be registered as a care home, and not an education provision, therefore on-site education will not be provided. It is the responsibility of the virtual school to ensure that a child is in a suitable educational provision, and the home will work closely with the VS to ensure children have an appropriate education placement suited to their needs.

Would therapeutic care be offered on site?

Yes, the home is a therapeutic home where the staff are trauma informed and trauma responsive.

Would case reviews take place on or off-site?

Children will have a Looked After Children review every 6 months. The home will be an option for this meeting to take place, however often it is the case that these meetings are held in school.

Are friends and relatives of residents able to visit at any one time?

Yes Family of the children are able to visit the home, however this is in a planned manner, supervised and risk assessed.

Are children ever left alone unsupervised at the property?

No, children will not be left alone unsupervised at the property.

Under what circumstances are children allowed to leave the property?

Children living at the home will not be subject to a Deprivation Of Liberty Order, and therefore have the legal right to leave the home. However, with the age range of the children living at the home, they will always be accompanied by staff.

What security provisions are proposed e.g. security and access controls on doors?

The home is not a secure accommodation, there will not be security and access controls on doors. There will be external CCTV.

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

The directors of the home are keen to build a positive relationship with the community. Neighbours will be provided with the details of the senior management team whom they can liaise with should an issue arise. Immediate Neighbours will be given a contact sheet where appropriate.

An additional point to be noted is that there is an overspill car park, and car parking will not cause an issue to residents of the village.