

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Property Address	47 Childwall Lane, Roby, Knowsley, L14 6TU,
Organisation	Actively Promoting Change Ltd
Requesting Change	
Proposed Change	From Dwelling House (Class C3) to a Children's Home for Multiple Children (Class C2)
Reason for Change	Growth within organisation and increase in services provided. Actively Promoting Change Ltd has recently been working alongside Ofsted, who have viewed the property and considered it acceptable for a Class C2 property in which to provide an Ofsted Registered Children's Home.
Need for Proposed Use	Increased Demand for Residential Children's Homes (Class C2) within the area that can offer facilities to Children with emotional challenges and difficult behaviours. Following the closure of internal residential homes, Knowsley has seen a rise in demand for external residential placements in recent years. This demand is particularly driven by children with complex mental health needs, emotional challenges, or difficult behaviours, who require specialised care within small, individualised settings. The Knowsley Sufficiency Position Statement 2022-2025 outlines the council's strategy to meet the needs of children in care and care leavers. "Market Management" or "Theme 2" within this strategy outlines the issues of children living within the area, being accommodated more than 30 miles away from the Knowsley region. Although there are other contributing factors to this, "changes within the market and the demand on external residential placements within the Northwest" is stipulated as a cause of children being placed more than 30 miles away from the Knowsley region. The impact on children is significant, as they are removed from their communities, schools, and familiar environments. This disruption can also limit their access to essential local services, such as mental health support through CAMHS, the Youth Offending Service, early intervention programs, and educational support. The latest data on National Demographics of Children looked after from 2021, states the population of looked-after children has been

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steadily increasing over the years. In March 31, 2021, figures represented a rate of 67 looked-after children per 10,000.

As a successful therapeutic Care and Support Provider since 2017, we feel opening Class C2 properties within the North West Region would be beneficial to the demands outlined.

Sourced from: <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Knowsley%20Sufficiency%20Position%20Statement%202022-2025.pdf>

Impact Assessment

1. Social Benefits

The establishment of a residential children's home can significantly contribute to the well-being of vulnerable children and the overall health of the community. By prioritising the needs of such children and fostering a supportive environment, Class C2 homes can make a lasting positive impact. Investing in children's well-being can lead to long-term savings for society by reducing future costs associated with crime, healthcare, and social services. Furthermore, by providing children with the tools and support they need, residential homes contribute to creating productive, self-sufficient adults who can positively impact society.

2. Noise Levels

As this property has been empty for time, when it becomes occupied by both Looked after Children and their staff, noise levels will increase in comparison to what the neighbours have been experiencing. However, noise levels in this C2 Class property would not exceed those, or be much higher than that of a Class C3 property. This service will have 24 hour staffing on site, which will facilitate constant management of noise levels and actions can be taken to reduce noise should they become disturbing to neighbours.

3. Privacy

Privacy of neighbours would not be affected with the property

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	being of C2 Class. Although there may be multiple residents and staffing, this would not affect the privacy of the neighbours any more than if the property is C3 Class with multiple occupants. 4. Accessibility and Parking This property has a drive-way which can fit 1 car. As well as a driveway, there is access to on-street parking. Due to the low number of our staff who have access to a car, currently (8%), we do not feel approval of this Children's Home will impact traffic flow or pedestrians any more than a standard family would. Latest figures show over 35% of UK households now own 2 or more cars. Due to Highways raising an objection to the current driveway (above) being insufficient to fit two vehicles, we propose using the driveway for 1 car. As an alternative we propose to install internal cycle parking within the existing garage area. This garage could accommodate several cycles along the wall. We feel this is a better alternative than expanding the driveway to accommodate 2 cars as this would require removal of green space, as well as expanding the dropped kerb which would reduce available on street parking for other residents.
Design & Layout Considerations	There are NO proposed major internal or external modifications to the layout of the property, as it is already suitable for Class C2. Please see Appendix A for floor plans of the property and minor proposed changes, including implementation of internal cycle parking and use of room spaces.
Compliance with Regulations	This Class C2 property will adhere to the following regulations: • The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 • The Care Standards Act 2000 • Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 • The Building Regulations 2010 • Children's Home Regulations 2015
Resident Numbers	This C2 property has a maximum capacity of accommodating 3 children at any one time.

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Who this property will accommodate	This C2 property will accommodate the following: • Up to a maximum of three young people of any gender, aged from 8 to 18 years of age. Referrals would only be completed if assessments determined that we could meet the needs of the young person. • Who require medium/long term care (12 months +) • Young people can stay until 19 years of age as part of a transition process, subject to assessment. However nobody would move in post 18 years of age. • Have experienced physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse • Have been a victim of exploitation • Display challenging behaviour (subject to assessment and only accepted once professionals agree needs could be met in an environment such as this, taking into consideration neighbours and wider community). • Absconding behaviour • Mild Learning Disabilities • Mild physical Disabilities (without need to adapt or change property – for hoists, etc) • Mild/moderate Mental Health conditions (anxiety, Autism, ADHD etc) • Experiencing crisis in their lives • Are struggling with their sexuality and/or identity • 3 young people is a maximum number which we propose to accommodate. This will be based on assessment of care and need. Should the home be running positively with 2 young people who are making progress, then we would not move a 3rd young person in unless we were completely satisfied that this would not negatively affect young people living there. • Due to our experience of working and supporting adults with additional needs, we would be able to offer specialised placements to people with Autism and Learning Disabilities as well as other additional needs. However, our service will be available to young people without additional needs also. As a company, we believe in integration and removing barriers for inclusion.
Services and support offered to residents at the property	Children and young people residing at 47 Childwall Lane will be supported to participate in full-time education. This could be in a mainstream setting or in a Special Educational Needs setting. This service will not offer formal educational support on site. Informal educational support may be delivered by support staff as part of a children/young persons care plan. In the rare instance that a Child may require home-schooling, this would take place on site with an external professional visiting. As an organisation, our aim is to provide therapeutic care to the children and young people within our homes. This means adopting a

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	holistic approach that focuses addressing the emotional, psychological, and developmental needs of children and young people. The majority of the therapeutic work will be completed by support staff on site who have received necessary training. At times, we may be required to work with different professionals who may carry out additional or more intensive therapeutic support services on site with the children/young people. Some of this external work may also take place away from the home. Relative professionals and multi-agency personnel likely to visit the property include: • Reg 44 inspectors • Ofsted inspectors • Merseyside Police Community Liaison Officers • Social Workers • Advocates Other professionals may visit site if required (such as speech and language etc), however these visits may also take place off site. Any visits will be made by appointment only (with exception of Ofsted inspectors). Any visits to site will be pre-arranged and will be done in a way which limits any negative effects on residents and neighbours.
Staffing Information	This C2 property will always have a minimum of 2 staff on site at all times (24 hours a day/7 days a week). A Registered Manager will be responsible for the service and work at the property a minimum of 30 hours per week. Alongside completing required managerial duties at the property and at head office, the Registered Manager will at times be the additional care staff member. There will always be 1 senior member of staff at the property, this would usually be the Registered Manager, however in their absence, there would be an experienced senior staff member at the property to adhere to the Children's Home Regulations 2015.
Daily Operations	Although rotas will be completed to meet the needs of the young people living at the property, we anticipate that staff will most likely arrive on shift in the morning around 8am. Shift patterns can vary and may include the following: • Sleep-in shifts – arrive on shift at 8am – retire to staff sleep-in bed between 10pm and 11pm – awake at 7am – leave shift at 8.30am

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- **Day shift** – arrive on shift 8am – leave shift 8pm
- **Waking Night shift (if applicable)** – Arrive on shift 8pm – leave shift 8.30am

There will always be a minimum of 2 staff on shift at any one time. Although this does not mean there will always be 2 staff at the property at all times, as staff will be supporting young people in the community on occasion. When staff arrive at the property, they will complete a handover with staff who are coming to the end of their shift. This can take up to 30 minutes which will see more than 2 staff on site during this time (no more than 4 at any one time).

As staff will regularly be working 12-16 hour shifts, the change-over of staff will be minimal.

General Operations

Visits from professionals will be pre-arranged with input from the young person and a senior member of staff and will be scheduled to take place at suitable times during the day – sometimes these visits may be completed away from the property such as school etc. Efforts will be made to arrange these visits during quieter periods at the property to reduce the number of people present at one time. However, if there is a specific need for professionals to visit during busier operational times, this will be accommodated accordingly and would be strongly discouraged from taking place early in morning or late at night.

Staff meetings, supervisions and appraisals will generally be facilitated at the Head Office or online via Microsoft TEAMS to avoid disrupting the service and the children's daily routines. Whole staff meetings will never be facilitated at the property as this is where the young people live and we do not deem this an appropriate environment for such meetings.

Friends and relatives of children are welcome to visit the property, provided these visits are pre-arranged and authorised by the relevant

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individuals. To maintain a calm and safe environment, visits for each child will be arranged at separate times whenever possible, keeping the number of visitors at the property at a manageable level.

Additionally, plans will be made for children to visit family and friends outside the property, ensuring a fair balance between visits at the property and external visits.

When considering whether a child can leave the property without staff supervision, several factors will be taken into account, including the child's age, maturity, ability to make safe decisions, emotional and behavioural stability, and the safety of the environment they will be in. Thorough risk assessments will be carried out and reviewed regularly to ensure these decisions are appropriate and safe.

For children aged 12 and over, if they are assessed as having minimal risks in the community, they may be allowed to leave the property unsupervised during specific hours. A set curfew will be established, and a written agreement will be made between the child or young person and the Registered Manager. As long as the child adheres to the terms of the agreement, returns home by the curfew, and demonstrates safe and appropriate behaviours in the community, they will retain the privilege of leaving unsupervised. If the terms are not followed, the risk assessment will be updated, and the circumstances allowing them to leave unsupervised may be limited or revoked.

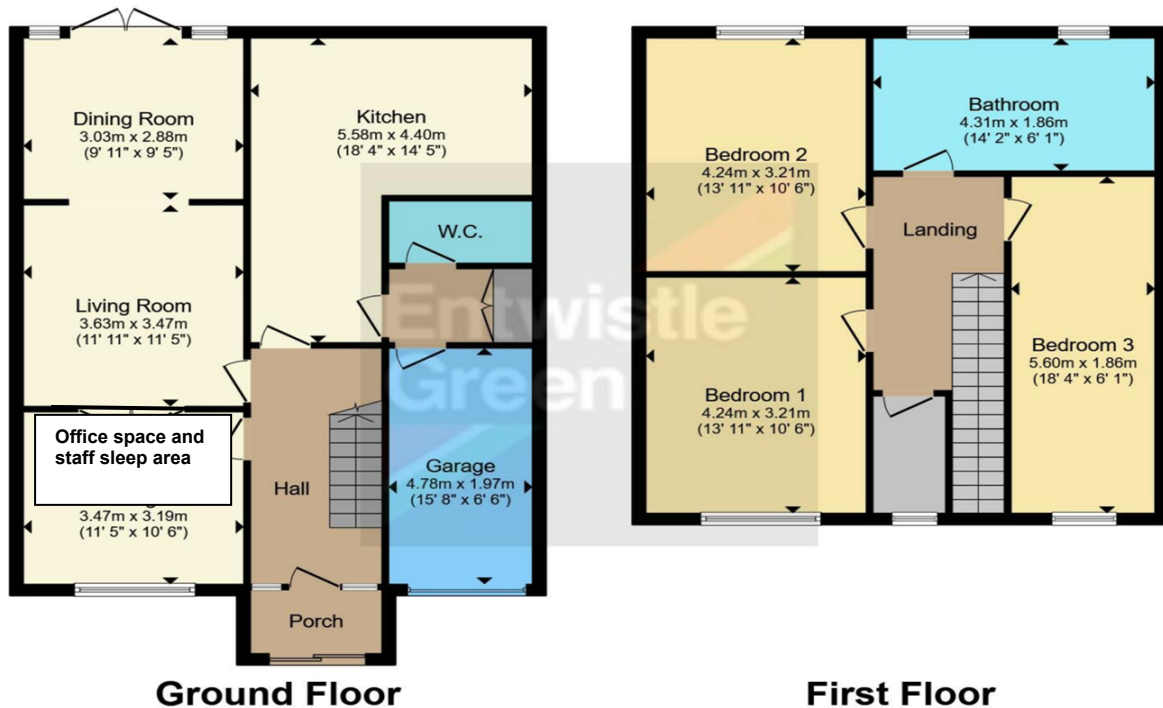
Circumstances where a child may be left unsupervised within the property will also depend on their age, needs, and abilities. The home will only consider leaving a child or young person alone for short periods if they are over 12 years old and have been appropriately risk assessed. Staff will remain accessible and able to respond to any emergencies during this time.

Agreements will be made to outline the terms under which a child or young person can remain unsupervised within the property. These agreements will set clear boundaries and expectations. If the child fails to comply with these terms, their risk assessment will be reviewed, and

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	the privilege of being unsupervised within the property may be revoked.
Consultation with Neighbours	Neighbours living in the surrounding houses of the property have been spoken to regarding proposed changes to the use of the property from a C3 Dwelling House to a C2 Residential Children's Home. Neighbours understandably had questions around this, but were pleased with the information provided. Neighbours were reassured that there would always be staff on site at the property and offered the contact details of our organisation, which is local to the property, should they have any further questions or need to raise a complaint once the service is operating.
In summary, the proposed change of use from Class C3 to Class C2 will provide essential support to meet identified local needs, offering valuable services to the community. The proposal has been carefully considered to ensure minimal impact on neighbouring properties, with appropriate management and operational plans in place to maintain a high standard of care. We respectfully request that the local authority grants planning permission, recognising the positive contribution this development will make to the community and the alignment of the proposal with local and national planning policies.	

Appendix A – 47 Childwall Lane Floorplan

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Total floor area 147.6 sq.m. (1,588 sq.ft.) approx. Measurements, floor area, openings and orientations are approximate.

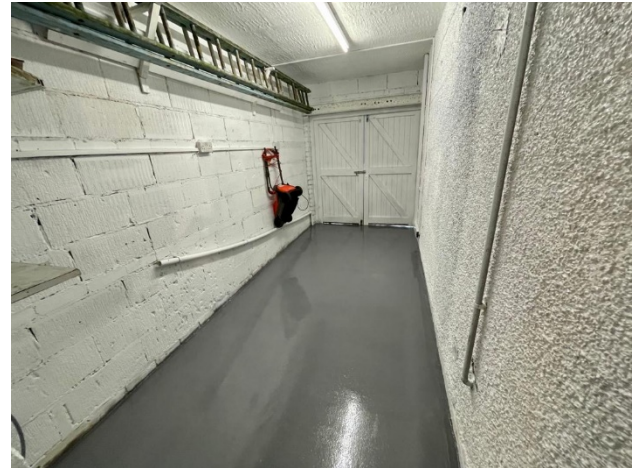
Please note, it is our intention to use the downstairs front lounge as an office space/sleep in room for staff. The double doors leading into the Living Room will be removed and replaced with an internal wall (plasterboard and painted). This will leave the remaining spaces (Living Room and Dining Room) as communal areas. It is our intention to put double doors between living room and dining room for added privacy and separate space. There are 4 bedrooms upstairs (3 detailed, as well as the grey area in front of landing, next to Bedroom 1). Due to this room only fitting a single bed and small wardrobe, we propose to use this space as an additional sleeping area for staff, should this be required (eg, a waking night staff is needed to be in position downstairs, therefore sleep in staff can use upstairs space to have undisturbed sleep). The measurements are not detailed on this floor plan, therefore I have attached photographs of the area for reference (below);

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Detailed above is the small bedroom (bedroom 4) at front of the property at 47 Childwall Lane, both without and with a bed in place. The bed is a standard single. Behind the door is room for small storage, such as a single wardrobe or chest of drawers.

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Due to Highways raising an objection to the current driveway (above) being insufficient to fit two vehicles, we propose using the driveway for 1 car. As an alternative we will install cycle parking within the existing garage area, pictured above. This garage could accommodate cycles along the wall (up to 4). We feel this is a better alternative than expanding the driveway to accommodate 2 cars as this would require removal of green space, as well as expanding the dropped kerb which would reduce available on street parking for other residents.

Actively Promoting Change Ltd currently employ 23 support staff, with only 2 staff having access to a car. This represents just 8% of our workforce who regularly drive to work. 92% of our staff regularly use public transport or cycle to and from their place of work. With an expectation of 2-3 staff being on site at any one time, we feel 1 parking space and additional internal cycle parking is more than adequate. As a company, we encourage our staff to support children on public transport as opposed to using private vehicles as much as possible to enhance their travel skills. As insurance, road tax and cost of vehicles continue to increase, particularly for young people, it is our view that encouraging young people to use and be familiar with public transport will only enhance their independent living skills. Due to this, we feel our proposal brings less traffic to the area than a standard family requiring a 4 bedroom house would. Latest surveys (2023), show 35% of UK households own or lease two or more cars.