

Tuesday 7th Jan 2025

Ref 24/00430/FUL - Millbrook Manor, Knowsley Lane, Knowsley, L34 0JN

The below is prepared in response to request for clarification and discrepancies raised with reference to planning for Millbrook Manor.

Discrepancies

What is being applied for?

Registration with Ofsted will be for 10 bedrooms and this proposal is in line with that aim so Millbrook Manor will become a 10-bedroom children's therapeutic residential Children's Home. It currently has 11 bedrooms.

Consultation responses

We have received the below consultation responses so far. Please note we are still awaiting on consultation responses from Conservation and Children's Services.

Highways have responded raising questions.

Please can you clarify how many children are to be placed here as the Heritage and Design and Access Statement says 12, but public information meeting held on 07/11/24 states 10 maximum occupancy.

The home will be registered with OFSTED or a maximum of 10 children.

Please can you also detail the staffing levels - how many staff to be at the children's home?

The staffing ratio is 3 staff members per 5 children, per shift.

In addition to this but out of the ratio there will be 1 Registered Manager, 2 Deputy Managers, 1 Therapist and 1 Director who is a qualified Social Worker.

Can a staff rota / information of shift working patterns please also be provided?

The below is the proposed 3 week rolling rota for days, and 2 week rolling rota for nights.

	7.45-15:00	2.45-22:00	21.45-8
Mon	A	B	D
Tue	B	C	D
Wed	C	B	E
Thur	B	C	E
Fri	C	A	E
Sat	A	A	D
Sun	B	B	D
Mon		C	E
Tue	C	A	E
Wed	A	C	D
Thur	C	A	D
Fri	A	B	D
Sat	B	B	E
Sun	C	C	E
Mon	C	A	D
Tue	A	B	D
Wed	B	A	E
Thur	A	B	E
Fri	B	C	E

Is the main access for vehicles and pedestrians going to be from Old Meadow onto Mill Lane?
Yes, Access and Egress will be through the existing access point which is the main gate of Millbrook Manor. Millbrook Manor.

Merseyside Police have raised a concern that a placement of this size and with the age range of children should not be agreed. It is considered that this development will contribute to crime, particularly with it being in an area where there is an oversaturation of unregulated premises, a history of anti-social behaviour and specific offences targeted towards children which will compound community tensions. If planning permission is granted, there would be a significant increase in demand on local authority and policing resources as the location has the potential to be a generator for crime.

We acknowledge the high number of unregulated placements, and lack of suitable placements for children who are in care.

This underpins why we are proposing the opening of this registered children's home.

We do not accept that there would be a significant increase in demand on LA or policing resources.

The children we are offering a Home to, are children of a younger age, who ideally should be placed within foster care, or where there is a rehabilitation home to parents planned. The Numbers and needs of children will be governed by our registration will be undertaken before admission. Managers and Directors will work closely with the Police before a child is accepted to ensure there are no issues such as absconding or safeguarding

Given that 10 beds are being registered, effective and safe matching is crucial. Therefore, Millbrook manor will not be accepting referrals for children who are deemed high risk of behaviours such as CE, MFH or high-level risk taking.

These are the children who agreeably would have the possibility of taking up more Police time.

However, the plan for Millbrook Manor is to provide a safe place for children to stay when they have been accommodated, ensuring their needs are met in a safe environment, rather than being placed in an unregulated placement where staff are not trained, and therefore the risk of the children experiencing more trauma.

Millbrook Manor is a therapeutic home with an onsite therapist, who will assess the children's needs and create a care plan to their needs.

Whilst the home will be registered up to the age of 17, we will prioritise admission between the ages of 5-12.

Further, the question posed is a somewhat limited and hackneyed view of the (unregulated) residential childcare sector. Millbrook Manor is applying to become an Ofsted Registered Residential Children's Home that provides therapies on site. The

Education secretary Bridget Philipson has recently (November 2024) set in place legislation that supports our approach. Please read the following link on the .gov website <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-overhaul-in-a-generation-to-childrens-social-care>

Plans

Please can also you mark out which bedrooms are for overnight staff vs children? It is unclear on the Proposed Floor Plans which rooms are designated for who.

Millbrook Manor will operate with waking night staff, however one room on the ground floor in the annexe has the potential to be used for staff, along with the meeting room in the main building, this will have a sofa bed in.

We are planning a residential children's home and safeguarding dictates that the plans of the rooms within the building, especially where staff and children sleep should not be public knowledge.

We would however be delighted to invite a confidential group to have a site visit to explain the layout of the home, with insurances that the information is not shared to the General Public.

If a floor plan is required with sleeping arrangements and children's rooms identified this would be via a password protected document with distinct profiles, we aren't saying no, just ensuring safeguarding and best practice is upheld.

Further

The Children we will care for will usually stay in their own school and remain with their existing GP, we will do our utmost to ensure they attend.

It is only when a Child is permanently placed in Millbrook Manor that doctors and schools are changed as this helps the Child become part of the community.

Our recruitment focus is to employ local people so public transport can and will be used for travel to and from work as part of our active travel plan, however, there are sufficient car park spaces for all staff and visitors to park within the grounds of Millbrook Manor.