

Planning Statement

Proposed Use of 22 Hillside Avenue, Huyton, L36 8DX as a Residential Care Home

Applicant: Supporting Happy Hearts

Proposal: Change of use from C3 dwelling house to C2 residential care home for one child (up to the age of 16)

Date: July 2025

1. Introduction

This Planning Statement has been prepared in support of an application for the change of use of 22 Hillside Avenue, Huyton, L36 8DX from a private dwelling (Use Class C3) to a residential care home (Use Class C2) for one child up to the age of 16. The home will be operated by Supporting Happy Hearts and will provide a safe, stable, and professionally supported living environment for a vulnerable child under the care of the Local Authority.

2. Site Description

22 Hillside Avenue is a two-storey residential property located in a residential area of Huyton, Knowsley. The property includes:

- Lounge (13 sqm)
- Kitchen (22 sqm)
- Office (4 sqm)
- WC (2 sqm)
- Child Bedroom (16 sqm)
- Staff Bedroom (10 sqm)
- Staff Bedroom (7 sqm)
- Bathroom (6 sqm)

The property benefits from a private rear garden and on-street parking to the front. The surrounding area is predominantly residential with good access to schools, healthcare services, and local amenities. The property is not listed and is not located within a conservation area.

3. Proposed Development

The application seeks permission for a change of use to a residential care home (Use Class C2) for one child. The home will be staffed 24/7, with one staff member on shift during the day (08:00–20:00) and another overnight (20:00–08:00), plus a support worker present as needed during daytime hours. The child placed at the home will not present with any

additional physical, sensory, or behavioural needs requiring specialist care. The placement is suitable for a child without complex needs. A Registered Manager will be available during the day as needed to provide oversight, conduct welfare checks, complete administrative and regulatory documentation, and ensure compliance with Ofsted standards.

Manager

No external alterations are proposed, and the internal layout retains its residential character.

5. Use Class and Need

The proposed use falls under Class C2 (Residential Institutions), covering use as a residential care home. The child will live in the home on a long-term basis, supported by professional carers in a stable, family-style setting. The care model reflects standard family life, with daily routines, education, meals, and recreational time.

There is an urgent and growing national need for high-quality, small-scale children's care homes. Provision within Knowsley and surrounding areas remains limited, often resulting in out-of-borough placements. This development will contribute to meeting local need while reducing pressure on foster and residential placements elsewhere. The home will operate under Ofsted regulation and meet all requirements under the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015.

6. Residential Amenity and Character

The proposed care home will accommodate only one child and two staff members at any given time, ensuring that the use remains comparable in scale and intensity to a typical family dwelling. No external building works are proposed, and the layout remains residential in character. All staff are trained in safeguarding, behaviour management, and trauma-informed care to ensure a calm, consistent and neighbour-friendly environment.

Visitors will be limited to professionals such as social workers and education or healthcare staff. No increase in noise, traffic, or disruption is anticipated.

7. Highways and Parking

22 Hillside Avenue benefits from a private double driveway with space for two vehicles. This will accommodate the day and night shift staff without reliance on on-street parking. The site is also accessible via public transport links within walking distance.

There are no anticipated impacts on highway safety, traffic congestion, or parking capacity.

8. Conclusion

This application proposes a small-scale and much-needed residential care provision for a vulnerable child in Knowsley. The scheme:

- Makes sustainable use of an existing residential dwelling
- Meets a well-documented local and national need for care placements
- Preserves the residential appearance and character of the area
- Will be professionally managed with 24/7 staff support
- Provides sufficient off-street parking

Supporting Happy Hearts respectfully invites Knowsley Council to support this proposal, recognising the vital contribution it will make to the care and safeguarding of children in the borough.