Knowsley Council

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	Knowsley has a significantly higher rate of children looked after than the national average — around 90 per 10,000 compared with 67 nationally — and numbers have risen sharply, from 317 in late 2024 to 388 more recently. The council spends heavily on residential care (approximately £18.4 million net in 2024-25) and many of its children in residential placements are still housed outside the borough, away from family, schools and support networks. Despite having 33 registered children's homes offering 83 places, Knowsley continues to face sufficiency pressures and is actively expanding its own residential provision. A well-run solo, activity-based children's home in Halewood can help meet the recognised local need for high-quality, local placements that keep children closer to their communities while providing the individualised care many require.
b. Evidence that the proposed Children's Care Home location and format aligns with the type of accommodation needed by Knowsley.	Knowsley's own Sufficiency Position Statement highlights particular demand for children with complex mental health or emotional difficulties and challenging behaviours who require individual care in a small provision. The council's stated priority is to secure more placements within the borough so children can stay near home, maintain education, and keep links with family and friends, rather than being placed out of area. Local placement is described as often being in the child's best interests. Halewood sits within Knowsley and offers a residential neighbourhood with good access to schools, parks (including Halewood Park/Triangle), leisure facilities and transport. This supports both stability and an activity-based model of care. The

	council is actively expanding local residential capacity and has approved new small children's homes (including two-bed properties) in the borough. A high-quality solo home focused on individualised, activity-based support therefore matches the identified need for smaller, more specialised local provision rather than larger group living or distant placements.
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.	Please see our LARA for this detail
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.	This is mentioned in LARA
d. That the premises is located in a suitable and sustainable location; This must include an assessment of accessibility, local amenities and social infrastructure	Please see LARA for these details
e. That it provides suitable access and parking provision to accommodate activity associated with the premises.	Currently has off road parking at the back of property but able to create 4 more car ports from excess garden space

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

Requirement	Response
a. The name of the company proposing to operate the facility and background.	Mythos Care Limited
b. Whether the home will be registered with ofsted and any evidence of communication with ofsted relevant to this home?	9KF0-OT1A-CDUF – submission ref number
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)	Long term residential
d. How many children would be accommodated and the age range (lower and upper limit)?	8-16
e. What will happen if any children reach 18? Will they remain?	As a company we would be committed to expanding our business to further support our YPs as they get older
f. What is the ratio of staff to children that is required i.e. delivery model?	All children come with unique staffing but we feel a maximum staffing would be 2:1 for each child so 5 staff maximum per day when including a waking night
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?	We are open to help all children but would like to focus on LD and mental health

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.	To mitigate staff numbers during changeover times we operate multiple start/finish times, 8am rotations, 9am rotations and 10am rotation.
i. What support officers would be likely to visit the property?	This will include but wont be limited to Reg 44s, IROs, Ofsted, SWs, family Cos, Psychologists, mentors, tutors, advocates, Police liaisons and School DSLs.
j. How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support-workers meetings take place at the property?	All planned and scheduled for minimum disruption for YPs and neighbours
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.	We feel the best setting for education is for them to attend a school setting but if this cant be achieved then home tutoring would be looked into based on the YP at that given time
l. Would therapeutic care be offered on-site?	Yes if needed
m. Would case reviews taken place on or off-site?	Both
n. Are children ever left alone unsupervised at the property?	never
o. Under what circumstances are children allowed to leave the property?	Based on their personal plan
p. Would staff members be informed/aware if a child left the property?	Yes always

q. Is there a curfew?	Yes based on care plans working in line with the home policy
r. What would happen in the event of a breach of the curfew?	Any incident would be looked at on a case by case basis, for example 5mins late would be treated different to a breach leading to a missing episode, in the event of any breach the outcome is representative and proportionate to the breach
s. What security provisions are proposed e.g. security and access controls on doors?	All properties have CCTV and doors are kept locked until a YP wants to leave, if this is supported by their care plan, no YP would be able to leave without staff being aware
t. Would CCTV be installed?	Yes
u. How would local residents know how to raise a concern in the event of an issue?	Would be provided with details to a care home liaison, and provided with the complaints procedure
v. How long is each placement within the children's care home?	Long term
w. Would any rooms be used as a dedicated meeting, training or therapy room?	Training is carried out at our office space so are staff meetings.
x. Would the parents or family of the children visit the home and, if so, how often is this likely to take place?	This will all depend on each YPs personal care plan but the home can provided this
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?	We have off road private parking with a plan to add 4 car ports if needed, this isn't needed at this time and isn't expected. But the plan is still in place if needed