



Knowsley Council

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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	There is a continued and well-documented shortage of suitable, high-quality placements for children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD) and Learning Disabilities (LD) across the North West region. Engagement has taken place with local authority commissioning teams who have identified a clear need for smaller, therapeutically informed homes that can provide stability and reduce placement breakdowns. Blossom House has been designed to meet this demand by offering a 3-bed, high-quality therapeutic environment, supporting children who struggle in larger or less specialised settings.
b. Evidence that the proposed Children's Care Home location and format aligns with the type of accommodation needed by Knowsley.	Alignment with local need The home aligns with Knowsley's sufficiency strategy by: - Providing small, stable placements (3 children) - Supporting EBD and LD - Offering a therapeutic PACE-based model - Supporting step-down from higher-cost 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.	Suitability of premises + hazards The property is suitable for a children's home and provides a safe, nurturing environment. Risks identified include proximity to a train track and local environmental factors. Controls include staffing, supervision, individual risk assessments, and safeguarding procedures.

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.	The premises has been assessed as a suitable and sustainable location for the operation of a children's home, in line with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and associated statutory guidance. A comprehensive Regulation 46 Location Risk Assessment has been completed and underpins the decision to operate within this area. This assessment has considered: - Local crime data and community safety - Risks of exploitation, including County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) - Missing from care trends within the locality - Environmental risks, including proximity to the nearby train track - Access to local services, including education, healthcare, and therapeutic support - Transport links and accessibility for professionals and families
d. That the premises is located in a suitable and sustainable location; This must include an assessment of accessibility, local amenities and social infrastructure	The assessment confirms that, while the location includes identifiable risks (such as the nearby train track), these risks are well understood, manageable, and mitigated through robust care planning and staffing arrangements. Blossom House will implement: - Individualised risk assessments for each child - Enhanced supervision levels where required - Clear boundaries and safety education for children - Ongoing review of environmental risks as part of care planning and Regulation 45 quality assurance processes The location also offers strong access to: - Schools and alternative education provisions - Health services including CAMHS and GP practices - Community resources that support social inclusion and positive development The area supports the home's therapeutic model by enabling children to safely

	engage in the community while receiving consistent, structured care. Overall, the Regulation 46 assessment confirms the location is appropriate, sustainable, and capable of safely supporting children with EBD and Learning Disabilities, when managed by a skilled and experienced team in line with Ofsted regulatory expectations. Internal risks: - Controlled access - Health & safety checks - Fire safety systems External risks: - Train track proximity managed via risk assessments, supervision, and education - Risks of CSE, gangs, missing, substance misuse considered Agencies consulted: - Local Authority - Safeguarding teams - Police (where applicable)
e. That it provides suitable access and parking provision to accommodate activity associated with the premises.	Suitability of location The home has access to schools, healthcare, transport, and community resources.

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

Requirement	Response
a. The name of the company proposing to operate the facility and background.	Company details Blossom House is operated by Positive Progression, specialising in therapeutic residential care.

	The home will be suitably managed by skilled, qualified individuals in line with the children's home regulations
b. Whether the home will be registered with Ofsted and any evidence of communication with Ofsted relevant to this home?	Ofsted registration The home will be registered with Ofsted under the Children's Homes Regulations 2015. Application reference provided
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)	Type of provision Medium to long-term therapeutic placements. - Emotional behavioural difficulties - Learning difficulties - Mental health disorders - Drug and alcohol problems - Children who are risk of CSE/CCE - Trauma and attachment needs - Therapeutic needs
d. How many children would be accommodated and the age range (lower and upper limit)?	Maximum of 3 children Children aged 7-17
e. What will happen if any children reach 18? Will they remain?	Turning 18 Transition planning will be implemented; children will not remain beyond 18 unless agreed.
f. What is the ratio of staff to children that is required i.e. delivery model?	The "family model"

	2:1 staffing to 3 children This will cover 8am-11pm with sleep-ins
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?	Level of need Children with EBD, LD, and trauma-related needs.
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.	24/7 staffing with rota system.
i. What support officers would be likely to visit the property?	Visiting professionals Social workers, therapists, IROs, Ofsted, health professionals.
j. How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support-workers meetings take place at the property?	Meetings for children can be held at the property but with minimal disruption.
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.	Education Children attend school or alternative provision; tutors if required for a short term during transitional points into full time education.
l. Would therapeutic care be offered on-site?	Therapeutic care PACE model and external therapy support.
m. Would case reviews take place on or off-site?	Case reviews On-site or off-site.

n. Are children ever left alone unsupervised at the property?	Unsupervised time Risk assessed and agreed with professionals. But this would be age dependant and company policy
o. Under what circumstances are children allowed to leave the property?	Leaving the home For education, appointments, and activities. Time with friends and family if risk assessed and agreed with the child social worker
p. Would staff members be informed/aware if a child left the property?	Staff awareness Staff always aware of children's whereabouts. If any issues surrounding location and risk of a child missing from home reports will be completed in line with local procedures and internal policy
q. Is there a curfew?	Curfew Age-appropriate and risk assessed.
r. What would happen in the event of a breach of the curfew?	Breach of curfew Risk assessment, welfare checks, and notifications. Again this is reviewed and agreed with social worker
s. What security provisions are proposed e.g. security and access controls on doors?	Security Controlled access and supervision. Within the home there will be locking system in line with regulation protecting

	childs deprivation and elements of the home to secure safety and GDPR for example the office will be locked when know staff are in there.
t. Would CCTV be installed?	CCTV Not used internally; external use compliant with law.
u. How would local residents know how to raise a concern in the event of an issue?	Community concerns Contact details for the RM/RI will be provided for concerns.
v. How long is each placement within the children's care home?	Length of placement Medium to long-term.
w. Would any rooms be used as a dedicated meeting, training or therapy room?	Dedicated rooms Therapy and meeting spaces available.
x. Would the parents or family of the children visit the home and, if so, how often is this likely to take place?	Family visits Encouraged in line with care plans.
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?	Parking Managed to minimise disruption.