

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.
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

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

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

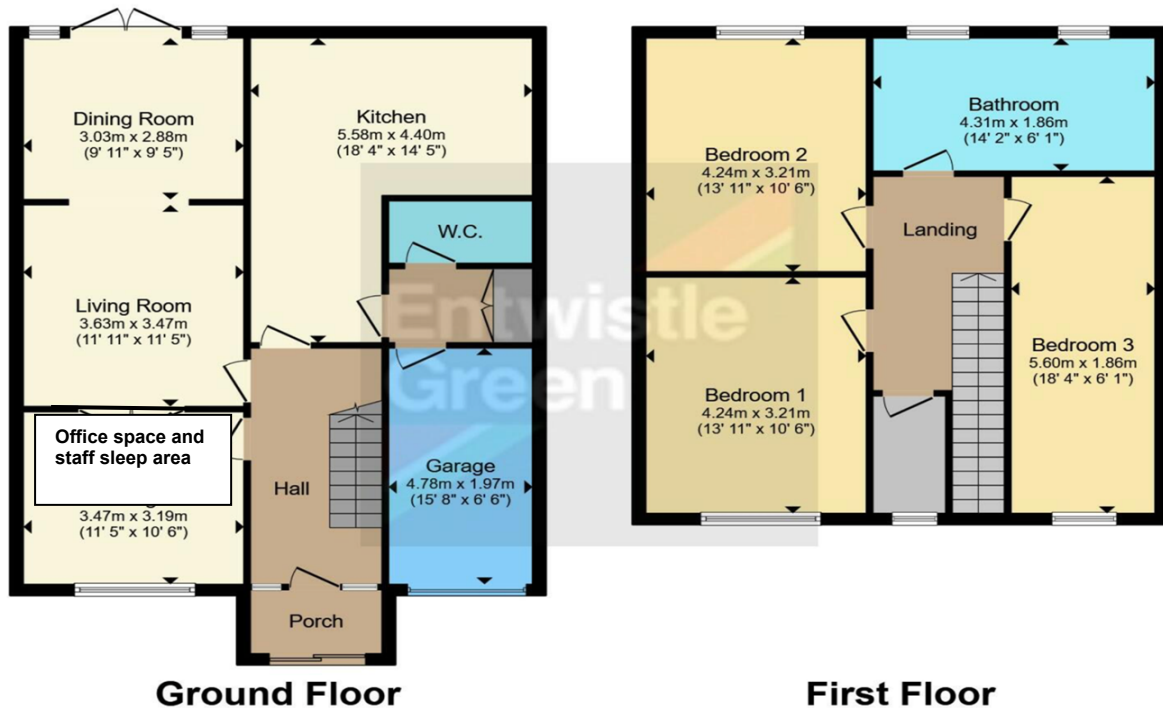
Privacy of neighbours would not be affected with the property

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

	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 will 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.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PLANNING PERMISSION	
Staffing Levels	This C2 property will always have a minimum of 2 staff on site at all times (24 hours a day/7 days a week). To adhere to the Children's Home Regulations 2015, there will always be 1 senior member of staff on site during every shift.
Daily Operations	Staff will most likely arrive on shift in the morning around 8am. Shift patterns are most likely 24 hours, meaning the staff who arrive on shift at 8am will be there until the following morning, covering a 24 hour shift. Depending on the needs of the residents, waking night staff may be needed. Waking Night staff will arrive on shift at 8pm and leave the following morning at 8am. Additionally, staff may complete 48 hour shifts, or be on a day shift from 8am to 8pm.
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.	

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PLANNING PERMISSION



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

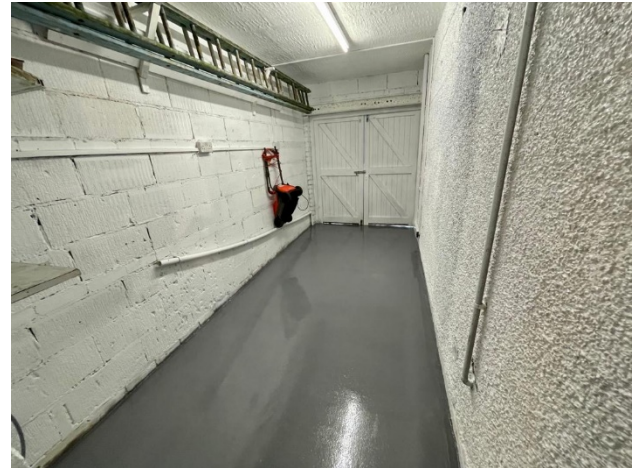
Please note, it is our intention to use the downstairs front lounge as an office space/sleep in room for staff. The double doors leading into the Living Room will be removed and replaced with an internal wall (plasterboard and painted). This will leave the remaining spaces (Living Room and Dining Room) 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);

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PLANNING PERMISSION



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.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR PLANNING PERMISSION



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.