Prosper Care
Services Northwest Ltd

LOCATION RISK ASSESSMENT

Name of Children's Home:	Willow House
Address:	Willow House 34 Eglington Avenue Whiston Prescot L35 3RB
Ofsted Registration:	Awaiting registration
Company:	Prosper Care Services Northwest
Registered Manager:	
Tel No:	
Email:	
Responsible Individual:	

Date of Report:	01.09.2026
Author:	
Designation:	Service Manager
Sign:	
Last date reviewed:	01.09.2026

***Police will be contacted on a quarterly basis to request any updated information relating to the area in order to inform this document**

Guidance

The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2) (the protection of children standard). When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and consider the views of, each relevant person.
The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard requires the registered person to ensure that the premises used for the purposes of the home are located so that children are effectively safeguarded.

Points to consider

In assessing the location of a children's home, a prospective provider of a new home or the manager of an established home will benefit from a clear understanding of the benefits and disadvantages of living in a specific location. This will help establish whether the area is suitable for a home, ensuring that children feel safe and are able to benefit from good quality services.
Ofsted inspectors may consider the quality of an existing home's manager's location assessment when evaluating the effectiveness of the home's approach to safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
Potential providers of new homes will need to send the location assessment and related risk management strategy to Ofsted as part of the process for their application to register a children's home. Ofsted will take this information into account when deciding whether to approve an individual's application. Ofsted may request further clarification if it judges that the risk management strategy does not properly address risks identified by the location assessment.

At Willow House we will:

- Collect web-based data on the above.
- Consult local services – the purpose of consultation is to gather as full a picture as is reasonably practicable about local intelligence on factors in a neighbourhood that may represent risks to children cared for in a children's home.
- Include discussions with children in the home's care, listen to their views and understand their perception about the quality of life in an area. This would include understanding whether children feel safe in an area and, if risks are identified, how these could be mitigated; and establishing children's perceptions about how well local services understand and respond to their need.
- Analyse the material to identify whether there are relevant risk factors relating to an area; and also whether there are barriers impeding access to services that will affect children who are, or will be, in the home's care.
- Ensure the assessment gives details about the strategies that the home will put in place to mitigate risks and also ensure children are able to access appropriate local services
- Ensure there is recorded discussion about the perceptions of risk that may differ amongst professionals. Once a manager has produced an initial draft assessment, it will be good practice to seek feedback from the agencies that were consulted.

Description of the Home and local area

Willow House is situated in Whiston which is a village in the Knowsley borough close to Liverpool, Merseyside. Willow House is a four bed children's home that caters for children who display emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or low-level learning disabilities or children who have entered the UK unaccompanied seeking asylum. The children can be of either gender aged between 3 -17 years of age.

As a children's home Willow House offers a safe well structured environment for children to live in. The team has an array of experience managing and caring for children of different age groups in different settings. The team at Willow House comprises of Deputy Manager, two Senior Residential Childcare Workers, three Residential Childcare Workers and one Registered Manager. The team works a rolling rota enabling 24 hour care supporting the children who reside with ourselves.

Willow House is an extended semi-detached house in a good a residential area with a number of close by many local amenities that include a post office, general convenience stores, hair dressers and much more. There are also a number of fast food outlets in walking distance. There is a main supermarket in a short driving distance. There is also a nearby post box for general use. There is a choice of bus stops travelling to various locations with end roads being St. Helens and Liverpool. St. Helens town centre is approximately 5 miles away and in the other direction Liverpool city centre is approximately 10 miles away. There is a railway station nearby with trains to Manchester and further and Liverpool Lime Street. There are also close links to the M62 and M57 motorways.

Within the local area there is a small selection of churches of different nominations to suit many beliefs. There are other places of worship in Liverpool that can support most religions.

To support the children's health there are a number of local medical centres and doctors surgeries close by to Willow House. There is also dentist surgeries and opticians in nearby proximity. There is a selection of chemists nearby and Willow House will be signed up to the Care at the Chemist which is a scheme to provide medicines and advice from your pharmacist. There is also an emergency chemist where emergency medicines can be sought should there be a need to. Willow House is very close to Whiston Hospital which has a top of the range accident and emergency ward as well established children's wards. Alder Hey Children's Hospital is a short drive away should there be a need for this that is a top range children's hospital in supporting specialist health needs for children.

There are a number of different community groups in the area that offer many different activities for children to participate in. There are nearby parks, playing fields and woodland for the community to spend time on and explore. There are local community groups such as Scouts and Guiding and other clubs and groups nearby in Knowsley.

There are leisure centres nearby that holds regular community events and sessions. Local schools are close by and offers recreational activities both after school hours and during the school holidays. Whiston has a village hall that has an array of different classes to the community to become enrolled and involved in.

As mentioned in the risk section of this document there are some areas that can be classed as areas of concern but these are well monitored not only be a designated Police team but also by a collection of detached and outreach youth/support workers. There are regular Police Surgeries where information is shared around concerns in the community and share positive practices that would benefit children in our care.

In compiling this report Willow House has consulted the following Agencies to assess possible risks that could involve the children placed at Willow House:

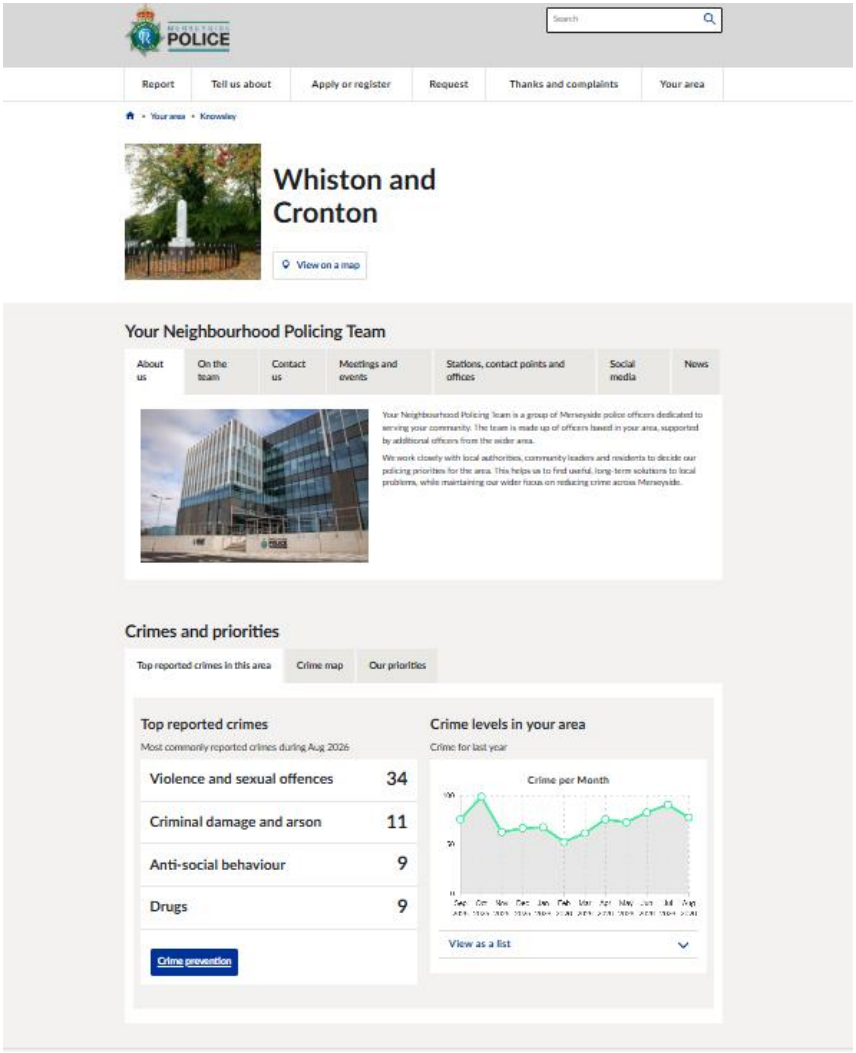
Agency:	Date Enquiry made and follow up responses:	Date Response/ Received:	Concerns expressed:	Outcomes and areas to be risk assessed:
Police				
Merseyside Police website www.merseyside.police.uk				
Merseyside Police- Local Team Serg Nicola Parsons Nicola.parsons@merseyside.police.uk				
Merseyside Police- Missing From Home Co-ordinator, PC Christine miller – christine.miller@merseyside.police.uk				
LSCB and LA				

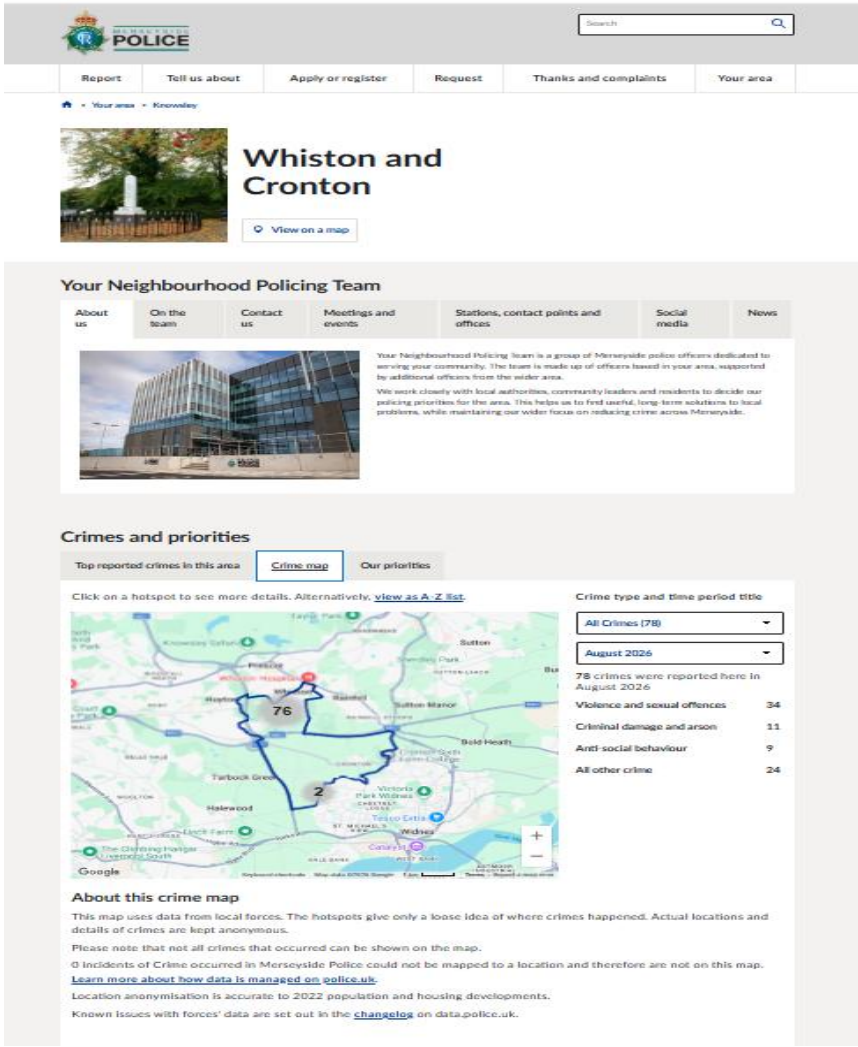
Agency:	Date Enquiry made and follow up responses:	Date Response/ Received:	Concerns expressed:	Outcomes and areas to be risk assessed:
Knowsley Local Authority Safeguarding Board. safeguardingchildrenboard@sthelens.gov.uk				
Knowsley Safeguarding Children Partnership knowsley.safeguardingchildrenpartnership@knowsley.gov.uk				
Knowsley Council Children's Commissioning team – Rebecca Hastie Rebecca.hastie@knowsley.gov.uk				

Agency:	Date Enquiry made and follow up responses:	Date Response/ Received:	Concerns expressed:	Outcomes and areas to be risk assessed:
Knowsley News (local online news information) www.knowsleynews.co.uk				
Health				
Whiston Accident and Emergency Hospital, Warrington Road, Prescot, L35 5DR 0151 423 1600				
Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Eaton Road, Liverpool, L12 2AP 0151 228 4811				
Education				
Knowsley Virtual School				

Agency:	Date Enquiry made and follow up responses:	Date Response/ Received:	Concerns expressed:	Outcomes and areas to be risk assessed:
Prosper Care Services Northwest				
Prosper Care Services Northwest.	Face to face conversations from 01.09.2026.	Immediate response.	The Whiston area is known to the Registered Manager and there is no immediate risks that has been identified.	The team will be well trained and can identify tell tale signs of substance misuse, child sexual exploitation and other forms of harm and abuse. There will be a number of risk assessments in place to safeguard the children at Willow House and a good positive set of routines, boundaries and structure to the home. The team will work consistent in delivering good safe quality care.
Current Placing Authorities				
There are currently no placing authorities. Once a child arrives at Willow House this will be completed.	Awaiting response.	Awaiting response.	Awaiting response.	Awaiting response.
Children				
There is currently no placing authorities. Child at Willow House. Once a child arrives at Willow House this will be completed.	Awaiting response.	Awaiting response.	Awaiting response.	Awaiting response.

Merseyside Police crime map and statistics:





Identified Concerns from Merseyside Police Website and how To Be Risk Assessed:

Significant concerns /areas of risk - expressed/identified:	**Source:**	**Risks – Reason For:**	**Preventative measures to reduce risk:**
Violence and Sexual offences.	Merseyside Police Website statistics.	Although there is a larger number of reported crimes around this area this is due to the crimes being combined into one area. Discussing this concern with St. Helens SPOC he gave reassurances around this. The crimes have been a number of issues but has taken from a wider area and no immediate risk to the position of Willow House.	There is good Policing around this concern and reports have dropped from February 2026. There will be key and direct work sessions completed with the children not ensure they are aware of the dangers around such offences.
Criminal Damage and Arson.	Merseyside Police Website statistics.	Due to cars being parked away from the home cars may be at risk of criminal damage. There are times of private bonfires around November resulting in a rise on fire regarded incidents.	Property will be kept safe and secure during periods when they are away from the home. Alarms will be installed if needed and work with the local community carried out. Key work will be completed with children around fire safety. Merseyside Fire and Rescue service will be approached prior to opening.
Anti-social behaviour.	Merseyside Police Website statistics.	Willow House is placed in a settled housing estate area and has some general low-level anti-social behaviour.	Merseyside Police continue to patrol the local area. There has been road calming measures put into place to support the roads not being used as cut throughs and this has appeared to have worked well. There will be a good routine at Willow House to ensure the children do not become involved in anti-social behaviour.

Significant concerns /areas of risk - expressed/identified:	Source:	Risks – Reason For:	Preventative measures to reduce risk:
Drugs.	Merseyside Police Website statistics.	Due to there being a low number of drug related offences this would indicate that this is not a major concern but there is some evidence to prove that this has occurred.	The team will be trained in drug and alcohol training to ensure the safety of the children around such topics is paramount. Conversations will also take place with the children to ensure they are aware of the dangers connected to drug use.

Additional Concerns and how To Be Risk Assessed:

Significant concerns /areas of risk - expressed/identified:	Source:	Risks – Reason For:	Preventative measures to reduce risk:
Local amenities	Self-Observation	There are a number of late night take away outlets and local public houses in the local area. There is a possibility that crowds may gather outside these.	The team is aware of the situation and area and the children will not be encouraged to frequent the outlets should there be a need to complete some direct work this will be carried out.
Public transport	Self- Observation	There is a number of bus stops and a train station close to the Willow House which travel to St. Helens town centre and Liverpool city centre.	There will be direct work carried out with the children around travel safely and direct work is carried out regarding understanding timetables etc. Should a child be admitted and concerns are raised around railways an extra observation would take place and readdress the risk.

Anti-social behaviour in local parks or local area	Self- Observation	The children may become involved in anti-social behaviour when in the community. This could led to criminalisation of the children.	Children will be supported and educated to understand the implications of anti-social behaviour and how this can have a detrimental effect on their future if they were to be criminalised by committing crimes in the community. The team will work with other professionals such as the neighbourhood police teams if there are any concerns around anti-social behaviour.
Risk of Radicalisation	Self- Observation	Following some general views around different topics covering race, culture and acceptance around different religions the children may become open to potential radicalisation following listening to others points of view over these matters.	There are no known issues relating to children being radicalised in this area, however the home is aware that this is a national issue and will monitor the young people in residents and act on any concerns. The team within the home have completed training in this area and are aware of the issues to monitor in this area. Communication is made with local PCSO who provide with awareness and any further updates of potential upcoming issues with radicalisation in the local area. Prevent is a preventative programme delivered to protect people who may be at risk and vulnerable to radicalisation. People concerned that someone they know may be at risk from being radicalised by extremists are urged to seek help early and access the advice and assistance available online and from experts.
Risk of County Lines	Self- Observation	Children can at times find themselves in situations such as county lines. Children can be encouraged to take part in what they believe are fun things to do. This can potentially lead to grooming and areas such as county lines.	There are no known issues relating to young people being used to traffic drugs in this area, however the home is aware that this is a national issue and will monitor the young people in residents and act on any concerns. Communication is made with local PCSO who provide with awareness and any further updates of potential upcoming issues with county lines in the local area.

Risk of criminal/sexual exploitation	Self- Observation	Children can at times find themselves in situations such as exploitation. Children can be encouraged to take part in what they believe are fun things to do. This can potentially lead to grooming and areas such as exploitation.	Some of the children living at Willow House may be vulnerable to the risk of being exploited by others, there are no known concerns in the local area. CSE /CCE risk assessments will be carried out for each child and the team will be aware of each assessment and follow these. The organisations mentioned above are also able to deal with child sexual exploitation as well as criminal exploitation. Catch 22 and other agencies will be contacted for support in these areas if there is a need.
Potential individual risk of the child prior to admission.	Referral information and multi-agency working	Concerns and worries upon the impact risk assessment.	There will be an Impact Risk Assessment completed for each child arriving a the home. Part of this will be talking with other professionals such as schools, police, health professionals to ensure the move will be a positive one for the child. Each child will have their own risk assessments to support in different areas. These will cross reference with this Location Risk Assessment and be updated if there is a need.
Serious police incidents.	Social media, Police Community Support Officer Donna Rooney and Andrew Peters	There had been a police incident where two males were shot and injured. Although this was not in close by proximity of Willow House there was a Police Section 60 put into place which allows the police to stop and search individuals suspected of involvement in criminality and disorder.	The team to ensure local incidents that are shared on social media and other platforms are assessed and appropriate measures put into place, if needed risk assessments updated and others informed and routines change to ensure the safety of all is followed.

Measures of Quality Assurance around Safeguarding

Measure:	**Frequency:**	**Outline of Measure:**	**Consultation and Quality Assurance:**
Quality Management Audit.	To be completed weekly.	This document is completed by the Registered Manager in line with key elements of legislation to identify areas where support maybe needed or areas that is doing well within the Home. The Registered Manager gives feedback on each area and an overall judgement for the Home over the past week.	This document is shared with staff team who take an active role in ensuring that Willow House is doing well and all concerns are met and points of good practise are shared. The Registered Manager will give feedback and guidance if needed from the report and this helps identify possible training zones and trends. The document is also shared with the Responsible Individual who compiles the information and undertakes a quarterly audit of the Willow House with areas raised from the document.
Senior Management Audit.	These will be completed on a 4-6 week basis.	The Responsible Individual would completed deep dive audits and ensure documentation has correct up to date information in reports, assessments and plans for the children and reports and assessments for the home .	This audit will be completed and discussed with the Registered Manager. Should areas need support on action plans will be sought around this. The audit will also look at the positive work being completed and ways of continuing this support to the children, team and Registered Manager.
Independent Visitor Report.	This will be completed on a monthly basis.	The Independent Visitor will complete a monthly report on the progression of Willow House and if needed raise actions from to complete from this.	Once the report is completed this is shared with the Registered Manager and Ofsted. This will be a tool used to help guide Willow House in areas they may be struggling in.
Registered Managers Six Report (Regulation 45)	Each 6 month.	The Registered Manager completes and audit of the home with information gathered by the Quality Management Audits to ensure the areas of concern is followed up and completed in correct timescales.	The report is shared with the Responsible Individual and possible areas identified to help strengthen Willow House. The report is also shared with the Ofsted.

Measure:	Frequency:	Outline of Measure:	Consultation and Quality Assurance:
Suitability of children at Willow House.	Each referral for a child.	Each child will have an individual risk assessments that highlights push/pull factors and any identified risk, any pull factors in the local area will be identified and included in this assessment. The local area has multiple transport routes attached to it, buses to the north and south of the city as well as train stations that link to regional and national routes. These are things that are considered when completing the individual MFH risk assessments. The team will ensure that they keep in contact with the child whilst they are out of the home. On-going discussions will happen with young people regarding the risks and dangers of going missing from home and possibly a referral to catch 22 to be made if this behaviour continues.	There is a team of people that discuss the suitability of referrals. This includes the Responsible Individual who has held the post of a social worker covering many different teams. If a suitable match is thought the consultation work commences with the staff team and placing social worker.

Conclusion

Although there are some identified risks in the nearby location of Willow House some of these risks are regular known risks conected to inner village suburb districts. There are some risks that are not currently an issue nor concern to the children who will be resident to Willow House but should these become apparent then these will be addressed.

Whiston is an established area of Knowsely and as noted there are some concerns raised regarding the area in this risk assessment for Willow House. It is felt that Willow House is well suituated as a property and is located away from main hotspots of crime and anti social behaviour. There is no current trend of child sexual explotition.

Willow House has a good support network of outside agencies close to the home and sense of community with the large amount of community clubs, societies and leisure activities. It is these projects that help support Willow House in the wrap around care that the home prides themselves on.

Due to organisational factors such as specialist training and local knowlegde this again supports Willow House in delivering good quality of care. There are a number of protective measures that we have in place. As well as the listed additional measures there is a good routine, structure and boundaries that are moulded to ensure the welfare and safeguarding of the children are adhered to at all times.

Willow House will hold regular direct work that is carried out with the children to ensure they are well equiped to manage such dangers that this Location Risk Assessment has raised. The sessions are delivered in an appropriate manner that is suitable package of care that can offer services.

With the information colated to form this risk assessment I judge Willow House as at low-medium risk. There are some concerns in the local area but these are well managed which reduces the likelihood of incidents that could occur and put the children at risk. Through key work with the childfren and training, supervisions and general conversations with the team and other professionals this risk will be regularly reviewed and should there be a need the risk reassessed.

Should there be need to reassess these risks prior to the review date of this document then this will be done.