

## 1. Location Assessment

| Requirement                                                                                                          | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| a. Evidence of need for Children's Care Home in the Area                                                             | We have emailed Rebecca Hastie at Knowsley Commissioning service for Looked after children requiring a residential placement. We are currently awaiting a response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| b. Evidence that the proposed Children's Care Home location and format aligns with the type of accommodation needed. | <p>We would like to confirm that the proposed Children's Care Home is in line with the type of accommodation required for looked after children in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Proven Local Provision:</b> The adjoining 4-bed Children's Home, which is Ofsted registered and rated <i>Good</i> in all areas, has demonstrated that this location is both appropriate and effective for supporting children in care. The success of this existing home evidences that the area is already a suitable environment for residential children's care.</li><li>• <b>Location Risk Assessment:</b> We have completed a detailed location risk assessment which concludes that the area is appropriate for supporting children in care. Key considerations include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Access to both local mainstream schools and SEN provision, enabling us to meet the diverse educational needs of young people.</li><li>○ Low levels of crime in the immediate area, providing a safe and stable community setting.</li><li>○ Good public transport links, ensuring accessibility for</li></ul></li></ul> |

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|                                                                               | <p>family contact, education, and professional visits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On-site, off-road parking, which minimises impact on the surrounding community and ensures safe and practical access for staff and visitors.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alignment with Need:</b> Our proposed 4-bed format reflects current best practice, offering small-scale, family-style accommodation that local sufficiency strategies and Ofsted guidance identify as being most beneficial to children's outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>Taken together, these factors demonstrate that the proposed home aligns with the type of accommodation needed for looked after children and that the location is both safe and supportive of their welfare, while also being appropriate within the local community context.</p> |
| c. a justification and explanation as to the appropriateness of the premises; | <p>The proposed use of the property as a 4-bed registered children's home is appropriate and justified as it addresses a clear local need in Knowsley for accommodation for children with learning difficulties and emotional/social needs. The dwelling is of suitable size and layout to provide safe, comfortable living arrangements, with communal and private spaces that meet Ofsted standards. Its residential location supports a homely, inclusive environment, with good access to schools, healthcare, and community services.</p> <p>The scale of the home is modest and proportionate, minimising impact on the local area. Operation by a registered provider under Ofsted regulation ensures safeguarding and effective management.</p>                                                                                                    |

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|                                                                                                        | <p>The proposal aligns with local and national policy aims to provide high-quality, community-based care for vulnerable children, making the premises both suitable and necessary.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>d. that the premises is located in a suitable and sustainable location;</p>                         | <p>The proposed premises is located in a suitable and sustainable location. We would like to highlight that there is already a 4-bed registered children's home immediately next door, which is currently graded <i>Good</i> in all areas by Ofsted. This demonstrates the suitability of the area for such provision and the positive relationship with the local community.</p> <p>To ensure safety and privacy from the direct neighbouring properties within the immediate area, we have installed our own electronic security gates. These provide controlled access to the premises while maintaining a safe environment for the children in our care.</p> <p>In addition, we have provided a full copy of the location risk assessment, which carefully considers the surrounding environment and confirms the sustainability and appropriateness of the location for a children's home.</p> |
| <p>e. that it would not lead to an undue concentration of children's home in that particular area;</p> | <p>Importantly, this does not represent over-concentration. Both homes remain small in scale, each limited to four residents, and the separation of the properties ensures that they retain the feel of family dwellings rather than a larger institutional facility. This careful design approach means the proposal meets demand without</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|                                                                                                                 | <p>compromising the principles of integration and community inclusion.</p> <p>In summary, the proposed children's home aligns with identified needs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering small-scale, family-style accommodation consistent with best practice.</li> <li>• Providing a safe, secure, and private location without adverse impact on neighbours.</li> <li>• Demonstrating suitability through the successful operation of an existing home on the same site.</li> <li>• Responding to local demand for placements while avoiding over-concentration.</li> </ul> <p>The development therefore clearly represents an appropriate and much-needed addition to the range of children's accommodation available locally.</p> |
| f. that it would not adversely affect or impact the local character and amenity; and                            | <p>The home is designed on a domestic scale, Housing no more than four children, which mirrors the size and function of a small family dwelling. This ensures the development remains in keeping with the residential character of the area and avoids the appearance or operation of a institutional facility.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| g. that it provides suitable access and parking provision to accommodate activity associated with the premises. | <p>The proposal will not materially increase traffic movements beyond what is expected from a small family home. Staffing levels and visitor numbers are manageable within the existing access arrangements with ample parking available.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## 2. Management Plan

| <b>Requirement</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>Response</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| a. The name of the company proposing to operate the facility and background.                                                                        | Nest Residential care Ltd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| b. Whether the home will be registered with ofsted?                                                                                                 | Yes the home will be registered as a 4 bedroom children's home.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| c. How many children would be accommodated and the age range(Lower and upper limit)?                                                                | Maximum of 4 children accommodated in the home age 8-17.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| d. What will happen if any children reach 18? Will they remain?                                                                                     | <p>As young people approach the age of 18, they will be supported to prepare for independent living in accordance with their individual needs and pathway plans. Transitions will be carefully planned to ensure each young person moves into the most appropriate accommodation, whether this is independent living or a supported setting where additional guidance is required.</p> <p>Planning for this will take place well in advance, with a structured approach to ensure readiness, promote independence, and provide the necessary support throughout the transition process.</p> |
| e. What is the ratio of staff to children that is required i.e. delivery model?                                                                     | Children will be cared for and supported with staff ratio of 1-1 support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| f. 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? | <p>Following consultations with Knowsley Council, it has been recognized that children with learning difficulties require a higher level of specialist skills in care provision. This need extends beyond basic support, encompassing the ability to deliver tailored interventions that address each child's individual learning requirements. Additionally, there is a significant demand for expertise in supporting children with emotional and social challenges, ensuring</p>                                                                                                         |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | that they can thrive in both educational and social environments. Developing these enhanced skills among care providers is essential to meet the complex and varied needs of this group effectively.                                                                                                            |
| g. 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.              | <p>Staff will work a 2 on 4 off shift pattern</p> <p>There will be a maximum of 4 staff on shift with a manager and deputy working 9-5 Monday – Friday.</p> <p>Handover will take place every other day in the morning. Handover will take maximum 30 minutes.</p>                                              |
| h. What support officers would be likely to visit the property?                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Ofsted – Regulator</p> <p>Social Worker visits and IRO within the local council</p> <p>Health professionals where this is required.</p>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| i. How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support-workers meetings take place at the property?                                                                                                                          | <p>Visits will be booked in the diary.</p> <p>Ofsted will visit unannounced to conduct annual inspections to ensure the home is compliant with regulations.</p> <p>On site team meeting will take place, however we have our own off road parking available which won't impact the neighbouring properties.</p> |
| j. 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. | Children will attend local school which are deemed appropriate for them and their learning needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| k. Would therapeutic care be offered on-site?                                                                                                                                                                                  | We don't offer direct therapy for children in the home however we do access a mental health wellbeing coach who supports children with positive coping strategies and                                                                                                                                           |

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|                                                                         | support the well being of the staff team this is once per week for 3 hours.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| l. Would case reviews taken place on or off-site?                       | Generally these take place via teams online meetings unless requested otherwise by the hosting person of the meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| m. Are children ever left alone unsupervised at the property?           | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| n. Under what circumstances are children allowed to leave the property? | Each child will have their own individual risk assessment based on their needs and capabilities, where it is deemed children can access the community unsupervised, we promote their independence skills and need for friendships however all children in the home have an allocated 1-1 support in the home. Each individual child's needs and capabilities are different. |
| o. Would staff members be informed/aware if a child left the property?  | Yes all children have individual risk assessments and allocated 1-1 staffing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| p. Is there a curfew?                                                   | Yes children who spend time in the community with peers will have a curfew in place and regular welfare checks from staff when accessing the community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| q. What would happen in the event of a breach of the curfew?            | Staff will try to contact the child and explore why they are late, if they are not contactable staff will go out to look for them and contact friends and family members. If we can not locate them missing                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|                                                                                      | from home procedures will commence according with each individual risk assessments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| r. What security provisions are proposed e.g. security and access controls on doors? | Thumb turn locks on external doors for fire safety purposes. External door have chimes on to alert staff if anyone enters / leaves the home. Electronic gates on site to secure the home property at night time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| s. Would CCTV be installed?                                                          | No CCTV on site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| t. How would local residents know how to raise a concern in the event of an issue?   | <p>We already have a registered children's home next door to the barn at the same address. We have written to neighbours previously when we originally applied for change of use on our first home "Tray Ash Farm" within these letters we added x2 phone numbers for the director and responsible individual should they feel they need to contact us. We also held a coffee morning for the neighbours to personally introduce ourselves and offer reassurance. This was met with hostility however we feel we have acted in their best interests to reach out to them.</p> <p>Our 4 bedroom children's home that is currently registered at the same address (next door to the barn) has been registered since 6.1.25 – we have had no complaints from neighbours since the home was registered and we have been operating.</p> <p>Ofsted did receive complaints from the neighbours prior to the home being registered but this was not upheld due to the home not operating as a children's home at the time and complaints having no</p> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>substance to it. Initially neighbours appeared spooked by the stigma of the property accommodating children in care. We hope that we have been able to reassure neighbours of their worries given we have had no further issues since the home has been registered.</p> |
| <p>u. How long is each placement within the children's care home?</p>                                                                                                                                      | <p>This depends on each individual child's circumstances some children require long term care, others are supported to transition in foster care or back home to parents and family members.</p>                                                                           |
| <p>v. Would any rooms be used as a dedicated meeting, training or therapy room?</p>                                                                                                                        | <p>No</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>w. Would the parents or family of the children visit the home and, if so, how often is this likely to take place?</p>                                                                                   | <p>Yes this depends on this being assessed by the child's social worker, each child's care plan is individual and the appropriateness of family time is planned to each child's needs and circumstances.</p>                                                               |
| <p>x. 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?</p> | <p>We have our own on site parking on the grounds of the farm which is plenty of space for parking. We will not be parking on the road or interrupting any of the neighbouring properties. We have electronic gates in place to allow vehicles in and out.</p>             |