

Vo, Kim

From:
Sent: 12 November 2024 10:39
To: Vo, Kim
Subject: External Mail: Millbrook Manor

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On Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 10:23 AM,

Ref 24/00430/FUL
11th November 2024

Mon

Millbrook Manor

Knowsley Lane

Knowsley

L34 0JN

Key Points arising from public meeting

Purpose of this document is to share the key points raised at meeting of residents and the operational team who propose to operate a therapeutic Residential Children's Home at the former Millbrook Manor, in Knowsley village.

We have set this document out as questions from the public in **BOLD** and answers from Millbrook Manor team in standard weight.

Meeting took place on Thursday 7th November 2024 at 18.30pm at Millbrook Manor.

Meeting was called and hosted by a director of the proposed home as well as the proposed Responsible Individual and Registered Manager of Millbrook Manor.

A full list of public attendee's name is on the back page.

Discussion Points

Concerns that the Children will be a danger to the community as they could be criminals or paedophiles

Age range of Children will be focused for under 12 years of age, the aim is for Children who have not been in the Care system and ideally should be placed in Foster Care, however the decreasing number of Foster Carers means Children will be placed in the wrong settings whilst waiting for suitable placement to suit their needs, or foster care, or they may stay at Millbrook Manor.

The focus kept going back to criminals and paedophiles, and we keep reminding the group that these are vulnerable Children who need support.

Why do you think your different to other homes around and you are a new business? Why do you think you will succeed?

We explained a new business startup does not always mean no experience. One Director has over 30 years of successful business background, both self-employed, and limited companies, and is still in business at present. Another has 15 years LA experience including residential short breaks, social work. RM has over 20 years of residential experience.

Yes, we are trying something different. A high-quality home environment where Children will not only have excellent facilities, but also excellent care and support, where their needs are met from initial admission assessments. With our therapist and trauma informed caring staff gives Children the support they need to help them regulate their feelings and become emotionally stronger individuals.

If you think the Children need therapy, it means they have issues, so they will have behaviour issues and cause concern to our families and community.

All Children who have been removed from their families will experienced trauma. It does not mean to say they will be dangerous. Our Children will receive a formulation on admission to deem if therapy is appropriate for this child, and a care plan that will be informed by the trauma informed and trauma responsive staff team. This will help with any long-term issues for the Child; therefore the child has an increased chance to progress to reach their full potential, in education and life.

How will we make sure the 10 Children are not a danger to each other or others?

It was discussed that referral notes are not always true to the Child

An impact risk assessment will be completed for each child, to discuss the benefits and risks of a child being placed within Millbrook Manor, both for the child whom the referral is for, and the Children already placed. The Registered Manager is very experienced with understanding and reading referrals.

We have established a working relationship with the MFH co-ordinator in the police department, who will assist with information in ensuring that the child is an appropriate match for the home.

We will not open with 10 Children at Millbrook Manor. We have a robust recruitment process that ensures staff are experienced, ready and trained, however admissions, will be staged and matched to each child's needs. We estimate it will take at least 12 months to 3 years to match the right Children to our home -10 Children is our maximum occupancy.

Concerns that there are no amenities for the Children in the village

This issue is country wide, with less clubs for teenagers or younger Children that parents/carers can afford. This is why we have chosen Millbrook Manor, for the space.

Even if we had a smaller house for less Children, we would not be able to offer the service we wanted, whilst keeping the Children safe from harm, until they are more able to make the right choices in their lives.

Millbrook Manor facilities include:

Large, secluded gardens for outdoor activities, which as well as a place to play will allow land-based activities.

- An allotment for growing vegetables
- Flower gardens
- Chicken's/Hens

Workshop

- Woodwork
- Bike Repairs etc.

Inside the Home

- A large astro turf sports hall for Children to access physical activities.
- A sensory room where Children can relax or regulate their emotions when needed
- 3 separate lounges for watching TV, relaxing, chatting, reading, playing board games
- 1 large playroom for imaginative play, creative work, games, music.
- 1 cinema room for chilled out movie nights
- 3 engagement rooms for therapy and one to one time, plus parent and family time

Our staff team are qualified instructors/teachers for:

- Dance
- Marshal arts
- Music and drama
- Sports and physical development
- Early years play therapist

Outside clubs and activities that we are in partnership with are:

- Basketball (Saturday morning club for all ages plus training days in Millbrook manor sports hall)
- Netball (Sunday morning, plus training days in Millbrook manor sports hall)
- Horse riding lessons
- Forest school

All these activities promote hobbies for Children, which helps them make better choices of peer groups.

Externally

At the bottom of the drive is Knowsley Recreation Ground, ideal for sports and outdoor activities, the site has a playground. Which we intend to make good use of.

Millbrook Manor also adjoins a small community woodland known as Shop Road Woods. The woodland provides a natural play space to complement the facilities and open space in the adjoining Recreational ground, its hard to think of a more suitable setting for a Residential Children's home.

Children don't need this type of house with their own bathrooms? it is not like a home

Why shouldn't the Children who have experienced trauma have the benefit of good surroundings? It is not just about the home it is about the amenities the home offers.

Having your own bathroom is a wonderful amenity and may be viewed as a luxury, however it is more hygienic, and safeguarding is improved, also some Children do not like to share bathrooms with other Children.

The home is not yet decorated or furnished until after planning, plus no heating on so it wasn't viewed at its operational standard

Children will have personal choices for their own bedrooms. They will also be involved in décor or furnishing decisions regarding the recreational and communal rooms. As well as shaping weekly menus and planning activities.

Children will be allowed to go out unaccompanied, Knowsley Lane is busy for cars, how can it be safe for Children?

We explained the Children will not have a DOLS statement, which means they can leave their home at any time. The Local Authority hold parental responsibility for the Children in our care, however as a care provider we will have delegated authority, which means we can make decisions that a parent would make for their own child, including appropriate risk taking. If we feel that it is unsafe for a child to be unaccompanied in the community, then a member of staff will be with them, however if we feel that it is safe for a child to extend their independence and do something alone then this will be considered in line with appropriate risk taking. Children leaving the home will be accompanied by a member of the team.

There are not enough doctors and dentists to cope with more Children

This is the same all around the country. There is no control over who buys existing houses in the village and this house could have easily been sold for 2 large families who need to use local amenities.

Looked after Children need to keep their normal life routines as much as possible, therefore Children may be registered for services in their family local area, and this will stay the same. It is our duty to ensure the Children access all health services, but this does not mean it has to be by their temporary home, unless needed.

There are only 2 schools that are oversubscribed in the area. How will you get them to school, have you got enough staff?

This is once again like many areas in the country who still have many looked after Children. If a child is settled in a school before moving to Millbrook Manor, and their needs are being met, then the child will continue to attend that school.

If the child's needs are not being met, then the virtual school will find an alternative education provision, this does not necessarily mean a school within Knowsley Village, there are many factors to be considered when moving a child's school.

We will have enough staff, it's a Children's home and as such we are held to minimum staffing and operational standards.

The staffing ratio that are on rota ensures that there are enough staff for school pick up/drop off. Prior to opening, residents will be given details of governing bodies to contact such as Ofsted to contact if residents ever have any issues or concerns regarding the operation and safety of Millbrook Manor.

The virtual school will be responsible for ensuring that Children living in Millbrook Manor have an education provision suited to their needs. In addition to this, we have a teacher who is part of the staff team who can provide tutoring for the Children within the home, to ensure that each child is working to their full potential.

How will you get staff?

Statement was made regarding them all being employed on minimum wage and inconsistency if staff choose to leave meaning no continuity for Children.

Once again, we believe this is not a planning concern but an operational one. It's an issue for many businesses and is UK wide.

It was explained that we do not see this as a problem, firstly staff are not on minimum wage as it is a responsible position and a very high % of our income are salaries and operational, not profit.

It was explained that in previous businesses, staff retention was excellent because of good working practice, conditions, and support. This is imperative for continuity of care, and there is no reason it will be different this time around. We have an excellent senior team of staff waiting to be included when it is time to recruit and interview, some of these live in the Knowsley area. Previously our founding Director has achieved an 'Outstanding' from Ofsted

Limited Public Transport

How do other families cope, this will be the same for ourselves and our Children. There is a bus stop directly outside the building, which is excellent for both staff and young people's independence

Car Parking

There is space for safe car parking on the driveway, plus a 12-car parking space within the grounds of Millbrook Manor, however we will encourage/support the staff team to car share or take public transport as part of our social values ethos and the councils own active travel plan.

Police attendance

The two police officers who kindly attended to support the residents and to explain their role in multi-agency working with looked after Children, were

aggressively questioned regarding them supporting the opening of Millbrook Manor.

They explained their roles and made it clear they were not in attendance to take sides but to feed back the views.

ATTENDEES

Community

Police

Regards

