

Knowsley Council Validation Proforma for Children's Homes

Property: 31 Normandy Road, Huyton, L36 7UU

Operator: Veritas Care Homes Ltd (Company No. 16908842)

1a. Evidence of need

Veritas Care Homes Ltd has made contact with Rebecca Hastie, Commissioning Manager, Knowsley Children's Services. Children's Services advised that they could not provide commissioning information directly at this stage but confirmed that their details could be included within the planning submission so that consultation can take place through the Council's planning process.

1b. Alignment with local need

The proposal is for a small two-bed children's home for children aged 4–17 with learning disabilities, providing family-style residential care.

1c. Appropriateness of premises

The property is a conventional dwelling within an established residential area. The scale and appearance remain consistent with surrounding residential uses.

1d. Hazards and controls

A preliminary location risk assessment has considered county lines, exploitation, missing-from-care incidents, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, road safety and crime. Consultation with Merseyside Police is being progressed and any advice received will be incorporated into the final assessment and safeguarding procedures.

1e. Suitable and sustainable location

The location benefits from access to schools, healthcare, public transport, shops and community facilities.

1f. Access and parking

The property benefits from driveway parking and additional on-street parking. Vehicle movements are expected to be similar to a family dwelling.

2a. Company background

Veritas Care Homes Ltd (Company No. 16908842) is the proposed operator. This will be the organisation's first children's home having experience working within the care and education sector.

2b. Ofsted

The home will be registered with Ofsted prior to operation. Planning approval will be obtained before submission of the Ofsted registration application.

2c(i). Type of provision

Medium to long-term residential care for up to two children with learning disabilities.

2c(ii). Registration category

Learning Disabilities (LDH).

2d. Number and age range

Maximum two children aged 4–17 years.

2e. Children reaching 18

Future arrangements will be considered taking into consideration ofsted guideline's and through pathway planning with local authority care for the re-homing of the children prior to reaching adult age.

2f. Staff ratio

Staffing levels will be based on assessed need. The home will provide 24-hour staffing.

2g. Level of need

Children with learning disabilities requiring residential support and care.

2h. Staffing pattern

48-hour shift pattern with sleep-in arrangements. Recruitment will occur following planning approval and before Ofsted registration.

2i. Visiting professionals

Social workers, health professionals, education professionals, Independent Reviewing Officers and Ofsted inspectors.

2j. Meetings and visits

Generally pre-arranged within the home or conducted virtually and if needed at alternative venues where appropriate.

2k. Education

Children will attend local mainstream or specialist schools according to their EHCP and care plans.

2l. Therapeutic care

Therapeutic services may be accessed through external providers where required.

2m. Case reviews

Typically held within the home, virtually or at alternative venues where appropriate.

2n. Unsupervised time

Only where permitted through individual risk assessments and care plans.

2o. Leaving the property

In accordance with placement plans, risk assessments and agreed care arrangements.

2p. Staff awareness

Staff will monitor and record children's movements in line with safeguarding procedures.

2q. Curfew

Children will not be allowed out without supervision; arrangements will reflect age, needs and risk assessments.

2r. Breach of curfew

Missing-from-care and safeguarding procedures will be followed where necessary.

2s. Security provisions

Standard domestic security measures and staff supervision. Door chimes on bedroom doors and exit doors.

2t. CCTV

No CCTV is proposed.

2u. Resident concerns

Residents will be able to contact the home manager/provider directly and access complaints procedures.

2v. Placement length

Typically medium to long-term placements.

2w. Dedicated rooms

No dedicated training or therapy rooms are proposed.

2x. Family visits

In accordance with care plans and local authority arrangements.

2y. Parking

One driveway space and on-street parking available.

Appendix A – Area Risk Assessment Summary

The proposed children's home is located within an established residential area of Huyton. Risks considered include child criminal exploitation, county lines activity, child sexual exploitation, missing-from-care incidents, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, traffic hazards and local crime patterns.

Control measures include individual risk assessments, placement matching, safeguarding procedures, staff training, missing-from-care protocols, partnership working with local agencies and regular review of local risks.

Formal consultation with Merseyside Police is being progressed and any relevant information received will be incorporated into the final Location Risk Assessment and operational safeguarding arrangements. The location is considered suitable for a small two-bed children's home due to its residential character, accessibility to local services and proposed safeguarding arrangements.