



*Knowsley Council*

**Knowsley Council**

**Validation Proforma for Children's Homes**

**31 Normandy Road**

**Huyton**

**L36 7UU**

**Veritas Care Homes Ltd**

## 1. Home and Location Assessment (Planning Applications Only)

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| a. Evidence of need for Children's Care Home in the Area this must include liaison with Knowsley Council Children's Services                                                                                                                                                                                                 | We have engaged with Rebecca Hastie, Commissioning Manager from Knowsley Council for Children Services early on in the project prior to putting No31 Normandy Road up for planning and change of use. There is a well – documented demand for high-quality, small-scale children's homes within the borough. We will be an Ofsted-registered home and once opened will respond directly to the identified local needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| b. Evidence that the proposed Children's Care Home location and format aligns with the type of accommodation needed by Knowsley.                                                                                                                                                                                             | Rebecca has seen the drawings for layout of the property and location of the property and at the time of communication had no issues regarding the purpose of the home or location. The proposed development delivers a solo or dual occupancy children's home, which aligns with Knowsley's identified need for smaller, specialist placements designed for children with complex emotional and behavioural needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| c. A justification and explanation as to the appropriateness of the premises. To include the identification of hazards and control to be put in place including the local and wider environment. This must include liaison with Merseyside Police regarding County Lines, missing persons, general hazards and exploitation. | <p>The property is a conventional dwelling within an established residential area. The scale and appearance remain consistent with surrounding residential uses. We will be upgrading the property as necessary to meet with all Ofsted and building regulations including fire alarm, door chimes and window restrictors.</p> <p>We take a proactive safeguarding approach and will engage with Merseyside Police regarding localised risks such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missing from care risks.</li> <li>Child exploitation.</li> <li>County lines activity.</li> <li>General community safety.</li> </ul> <p>The location of the premises is considered appropriate due to its location, residential setting, ability to be adapted and secured along with its suitability for providing a safe and nurturing environment.</p> |

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| <p>d. Identified hazards and controls to be put in place including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Risks of injury within the home including access to roof</li> <li>ii. Traffic, Railway, Waterways, Risks of Child Sexual Exploitation, Risk of Gangs, Crime, Anti-social Behaviour, Risks of Missing from Care, Risk of Substance Abuse, Drug Involvement.</li> <li>iii. Please include agencies who you have consulted as part of the risk assessment.</li> </ul> | <p><b>IDENTIFIED HAZARDS:</b></p> <p>Loft hatch to be secured and locked with controlled access to the loft/roof space.</p> <p>Window restrictors to be fitted and secure fixtures and fittings.</p> <p>We will carry out daily checks on all windows and doors.</p> <p>Regular health and safety audits.</p> <p><b>EXTERNAL RISKS:</b></p> <p>Traffic: Risk assessed and children supervised at all times.</p> <p><b>RAILWAYS / WATERWAYS:</b> Site specific with risk assessments carried out and managed in the care plans.</p> <p><b>CSE / Exploitation / Gangs / Crime:</b></p> <p>Staff trained in safe guarding and exploitation awareness.</p> <p>Close liaison with local police and safe guarding teams.</p> <p><b>MISSING from Care:</b></p> <p>2 to 1 Staffing model significantly reduces the risk.</p> <p>Robust protocols along with individual risk assessments to be carried out.</p> <p><b>SUBSTANCE misuse / drug involvement:</b></p> <p>Working with local services, staff training and monitoring.</p> <p><b>AGENCIES consulted:</b></p> <p>Merseyside Police.</p> <p>Ofsted.</p> <p>Knowsley Council Children's Services and Planning.</p> <p>Consultation is being progressed and any advice received will be incorporated into the final assessment and safeguarding procedures.</p> |
| <p>d. That the premises is located in a suitable and sustainable location; This must include an assessment of accessibility, local amenities and social infrastructure</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>The property is in an established residential area with good access to:</p> <p>Parks and recreational spaces.</p> <p>Local Schools.</p> <p>Health Services.</p> <p>Shops.</p> <p>Public Transport.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|                                                                                                                 | <p>Community facilities.</p> <p>This allows the children easy access to education, healthcare, social opportunities and days out to places such as Knowsley Safari Park supporting positive outcomes and integration.</p>                                                                                  |
| e. That it provides suitable access and parking provision to accommodate activity associated with the premises. | <p>The property benefits from on site parking for 1 vehicle along with adequate street parking.</p> <p>We encourage the staff to car share.</p> <p>Use public transport where appropriate.</p> <p>Shift Co-ordination.</p> <p>Vehicle movements are to be expected to be similar to a family dwelling.</p> |

## 2. Management Plan (Planning Applications and Lawful Development Certificates)

| Requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| a. The name of the company proposing to operate the facility and background.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>Veritas Care Homes Ltd (Company No. 16908842)</b> is the proposed operator. This will be the organisation's first children's home having experience working within the care and education sector.</p>                                                                               |
| b. Whether the home will be registered with Ofsted and any evidence of communication with Ofsted relevant to this home?                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>The home will be registered with Ofsted prior to operation. Planning approval will be obtained before submission of the Ofsted registration application.</p>                                                                                                                           |
| <p>c. i. Type of provision (e.g. crisis, short or long term) and statement of purpose</p> <p>c. ii. Type of registration (emotional and behavioural difficulties, mental disorders, sensory, present alcohol problems, present drug problems, learning difficulty, physical disabilities)</p> | <p>Solo, long-term residential care for children with emotional and behavioural needs requiring high levels of support.</p> <p><b>Registration category.</b></p> <p>Primarily:</p> <p>Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD)</p> <p>Potential to support additional needs (non-</p> |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>complex physical or learning needs) where appropriate.</p> <p>Children with a Learning disability (LDH)</p>                                                                                                                                                              |
| d. How many children would be accommodated and the age range (lower and upper limit)?                                                                                                                             | Maximum of 2 children aged between 4-17 years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| e. What will happen if any children reach 18? Will they remain?                                                                                                                                                   | 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.                                                                   |
| f. What is the ratio of staff to children that is required i.e. delivery model?                                                                                                                                   | Staffing levels will be based on assessed need normally 2:1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| g. 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?                                                              | The home will support children with complex emotional and behavioural needs, including those at risk of placement breakdown. The focus is on stabilisation, relationship – based care and positive behavioural outcomes.                                                    |
| h. 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>The staff and shift pattern will be based upon the assessed needs of the children in our care and Ofsted involvement.</p> <p>We have produced a general staff rota with in Veritas Care Homes Ltd Community Impact Statement included within the planning documents.</p> |
| i. What support officers would be likely to visit the property?                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The property may be visited by:</p> <p>Ofsted Inspectors.</p> <p>Independent Reviewing Inspectors.</p> <p>Social Workers.</p> <p>Education Providers.</p> <p>Therapists and Health Care Professionals.</p>                                                               |

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| j. How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support-workers meetings take place at the property?                                                                                                                          | Generally pre-arranged within the home or conducted virtually and if needed at alternative venues where appropriate.                                                |
| k. 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. | We do not propose our children to be home tutored. Children will attend local mainstream or specialist schools according to their EHCP and care plans.              |
| l. Would therapeutic care be offered on-site?                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes, where required therapeutic input i.e., behavioural support and counselling may be provided at the property or accessed through external providers as required. |
| m. Would case reviews taken place on or off-site?                                                                                                                                                                              | Typically held within the home, virtually or at alternative venues where appropriate.                                                                               |
| n. Are children ever left alone unsupervised at the property?                                                                                                                                                                  | No                                                                                                                                                                  |
| o. Under what circumstances are children allowed to leave the property?                                                                                                                                                        | In accordance with placement plans, risk assessments and agreed care arrangements, Usually accompanied by staff.                                                    |
| p. Would staff members be informed/aware if a child left the property?                                                                                                                                                         | Yes, staff would be made aware of any child that leaves the property accompanied by other members of staff.                                                         |
| q. Is there a curfew?                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Curfews are individualised and agreed within the child's placement plan                                                                                             |
| r. What would happen in the event of a breach of the curfew?                                                                                                                                                                   | Any breach of curfew would be managed under safeguarding and missing from care procedures. The police would be contacted                                            |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                     | and liaison with the placing authority would take place as required.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| s. What security provisions are proposed e.g. security and access controls on doors?                                                                                                                | The property will be securely adapted, chimes on bedrooms and external doors all to comply with Ofsted and current regulations.                                                                                                                   |
| t. Would CCTV be installed?                                                                                                                                                                         | No CCTV is proposed unless advised by Ofsted.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| u. How would local residents know how to raise a concern in the event of an issue?                                                                                                                  | Neighbours would be informed prior to the home opening with contact information for Veritas Care Homes Ltd.                                                                                                                                       |
| v. How long is each placement within the children's care home?                                                                                                                                      | We would be looking at long term placements for the children until they reach adulthood (18 years old).                                                                                                                                           |
| w. Would any rooms be used as a dedicated meeting, training or therapy room?                                                                                                                        | No dedicated training or therapy rooms are proposed but a room can be used flexibly for meetings of therapeutic sessions if required.                                                                                                             |
| x. Would the parents or family of the children visit the home and, if so, how often is this likely to take place?                                                                                   | Parents and family visits will be encouraged where appropriate and agreed within care plans and local authority arrangements.                                                                                                                     |
| y. 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? | We have on site parking for 1 vehicle along with on street parking being available. Staff will care share and use public transport when necessary to keep vehicle impact to a minimal. Visitors will be encouraged to attend between 9am and 4pm. |