



Enhanced Planning Justification Statement

Date: 10 April 2026

Applicant: James Rourke

Registered Office: Rose Hill House, Pygons Hill Lane, Lydiate, L31 4JF

Site Address: 221A Whitefield Drive, Westvale, Kirkby, Knowsley, L32 0RB

1. Purpose of Statement

This statement provides further justification in support of the application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the change of use from C3 (Dwellinghouse) to C2 (Residential Children's Home).

2. Scale and Nature of Use

The proposed children's home will accommodate a maximum of one child, with up to two care support staff on shift at any time. The scale is deliberately small to ensure a stable, nurturing, family-style environment that remains residential in character.

3. Quality of Care and Professional Standards

Linacre Children's Homes Ltd operates to exceptionally high professional standards. The organisation has substantial positive references evidencing successful placements and positive transitions for children in its care.

The service operates in accordance with the Philomena Protocol, ensuring robust safeguarding, rapid response procedures, and partnership working with local authorities and police services where required.

4. Ofsted Registration Requirement

C2 certification is required in order to finalise and submit the Ofsted registration application for this home. The lawful confirmation of use is therefore necessary to progress regulatory approval.

5. Parking and Highways Impact

The property benefits from on-site parking via driveway. Given the limited number of staff and single occupancy arrangement, traffic movements will be minimal and comparable to a typical family dwelling.

6. Residential Amenity and Sound Insulation

The property has been prepared to meet Ofsted standards. Walls have been soundproofed to ensure privacy and minimise any potential disturbance. No external alterations are proposed and the dwelling will retain its existing residential appearance.

7. Conclusion

The proposal represents a carefully managed, small-scale residential care home that maintains the character of the surrounding residential area. It delivers a significant social benefit by providing safe, high-quality care for vulnerable children while operating within a domestic setting.

It is respectfully requested that the Local Planning Authority grant the Lawful Development Certificate to enable Ofsted registration to proceed.