

## Supporting Statement

### A. Introduction

Our medium to long term residential children's home has a maximum capacity of 4. The residents will be aged 8 – 17 years and will have varying social, emotional and behavioural needs. The home will be regulated by Ofsted and we are currently in the process of applying for registration.

### B. How will the Home be Regulated ?

The home will be governed under Children's Home regulations 2015 and this will be registered and monitored/ inspected regularly by HMCI (Ofsted).

#### Regulations

##### HMCI (Ofsted)

HMCI will conduct the initial inspection and register the home when/ if standards are met. HMCI will conduct a minimum of 2 inspections per year and one of those will be a full inspection in which an inspector will be on the premises for at least 2 days. The provider will receive minimal notice as inspectors need to observe set-up in real time. Any failure to meet regulations may lead to consideration of enforcement action Ofsted will require a location risk assessment, a live document that will be reviewed every year and when new risks become apparent. We are clear that the children will respond differently to location risk factors. Where a specific risk affecting the home's children is identified, the home's manager will need to develop strategies for managing these, if necessary in partnership with the services that will have already contributed to the location assessment process. The registered manager will maintain a risk matrix which will be shared with the placing authority.

##### Regulations 40, 44 and 45

Inspectors will regularly review regulations 40, 44 and 45 reports and these may trigger early visits.

##### Regulation 40

The Registered manager must notify Ofsted without delay about specific events and incidents as set out in regulation 40.

##### Regulation 44:

The organisation is required to appoint an independent competent Quality Officer to inspect the home every month focussing on whether children are adequately safeguarded and if the home promote children wellbeing.

Regulation 44 requires that this person visits the children's home at least once a month and that this visit may be unannounced. The regulation also requires that the independent person must produce a report (The independent person report) and provide a copy to:

- HMCI (Ofsted)
- the local authority for the area in which the home is located, on request
- the placing authorities of children
- the registered manager
- the responsible individual

These reports provide crucial information about the safety, welfare and progress of children.

### **Regulation 45**

Regulation 45 requires the registered manager to produce a report at least every 6 months. When writing the report, the registered manager should review the quality of the care provided by the home, the experiences of children living there and the impact the care is having on outcomes and improvements for children at the home.

### **C. Local Authorities**

Our services will be commissioned through Hampshire and Southampton County Councils.

### **D. Staffing**

Individuals responsible for day to day home management

- Responsible individual
- Registered Manager minimum qualification = Level 5 Diploma + Ofsted regulated facility management experience)
- Deputy Manager
- Team Leader
- Carers minimum qualification = Level 3 Diploma

There is 24 hour staff supervision on site. All staff will be appropriately trained to provide the level of support required. The home will be led by a registered manager with adequate training and experience in running an Ofsted registered home. The manager will have a deputy manager to work under them. There is always a minimum of 2 staff members onsite. Night cover will include 1 sleeping and 1 waking supported by on call (via phone) manager.

### **E. Accommodation**

4 bedroomed property + another bedroom to be used by staff as sleeping room/ Office.

#### **Bedroom Furniture**

Bedroom furniture and decoration will be inspired by the young person as part of the person-centred model.

But general minimum include:

- Double bed with mattress
- All beds to have fitted sheets and duvet – two sets of bed linen, 2 pillows and cases
- Bedside table and light

- Wardrobe
- Chest of drawers
- Suitable fixed lighting with light shades (not bare bulbs)
- Desk and chair
- Carpet
- Curtains (flammability compliant)
- Minimum 4 power points
- Lockable door with a thumb lock on the inside....staff keep a spare key to allow emergency access when needed.

### **Communal Areas**

- Shared Kitchen
  - Sink with drainer
  - Electric Cooker and oven
  - Hot and cold water supply
  - Freezer/ Refrigerator
  - Microwave
  - Kettle
  - Toaster
  - Storage cupboards
  - Adequate lighting and ventilation
  - Fire detection equipment (Hardwired L1 system)
  - Crockery
  - Fire fighting equipment
    - Fire blanket
    - Water mist fire extinguisher (Accessible to staff only)
    - Regular fire risk assessments are conducted by external contractors

### **Dining Room**

Our young people will have an area away from the bedroom this is enough to accommodate all the residents. There will be a table and comfortable movable chairs.

### **Lounge**

The young people will have a chill-out area. Leather sofas of adequate size to accommodate the young people. These will be comfortable and easy to clean. The furniture will meet the flammability compliance requirements.

Young people will be provided with a smart TV (minimum 32 inches)

### **Lighting**

We will have both natural and artificial lighting. There will be no bare bulbs, lamp shades will be used in most cases.

### **Ventilation**

Adequate extractor fans are installed in kitchen, bathroom and WC's.

### **Access/Security**

The property can be accessed through the front door. The front door is kept locked and duty staff carry keys on them. There is also a back glass patio door to be used to access the back garden.

### **Heating**

The home has gas central heating system which will provide heat in all rooms with controllable thermostats on each radiator.

### **Cleaning**

The home will be kept in a good state of cleanliness and staff will be responsible for cleaning both communal areas and the children's bedrooms. The young persons will be encouraged to partake in some chores as part of developing independent skills. Hazardous cleaning materials are stored securely and subject to a risk assessment.

### **Windows**

Where it is felt that there is risk of a young person exiting through the window, then window restrictors will be installed following a full risk assessment.

### **Home Office**

The office is kept locked and only accessed by staff as confidential material is stored in this area. Please note the bulk of documents and archives will be stored at the Highlands Care Solutions Head Office.

## **F. Garden areas**

The garden will be kept well maintained and in a tidy state allowing the young people to enjoy their space. Garden building will be well maintained too. All garden areas are kept tidy with grass cut regularly and maintenance / repairs made to any sheds.

## **G. Visitors**

All visitors will be qualified including ID check as part of safeguarding before they are allowed access to the home. They will be required to sign in and sign out. Visitors may include Social workers, parents, relatives or friends of children/young people, prospective employees, inspectors, neighbours or representatives of community/agency groups, workers, delivery drivers, meter readers and the like.

- Any visitor will be chaperoned when on the home's premises.
- Arrival and departure must be recorded in the Visitors Book and if an individual child/young person has been visited this should be included in their daily records.
- Visitors will be welcomed by a manager or senior member of staff on duty, who should act as a reference person for the visitor for the duration of their visit.
- Staff need will take reasonable precautions to prove the identity of parents, relatives or friends before they enter the home.
- All contractors and workmen will be appropriately briefed by the registered manager before they can start work in the home. The briefing to include purpose and function of the home as well as safe management of tools/ equipment.

#### **H. Neighbours**

- We strongly believe that a good neighbourhood is essential for the development of our young people. We are therefore keen to establish good relationships with people in the community, maintaining an open and honest dialogue.
- Behaviours that impact on neighbours e.g noise will be discouraged.
- Neighbours should be given practical advice on dealing with our children/young people, which might include not inviting them into their homes, not lending money or offering cigarettes,
- Neighbours may not have unsupervised contact with children/young people (will be provided with the contact details for our home).
- All incidents will be taken seriously and all complaints via phone or in person will be dealt with calmly. The manager will call back and if possible arrange to visit the neighbour to address the issues. If a neighbour wishes to make a complaint the manager will advise of the complaints procedure.

#### **I. Parking**

- On street parking will be enhanced and improved as the dropped kerb outside the property will be built to provide additional on road parking
- Cycle Storage: Floor mounted Sheffield style stands adequate for 6 bikes will be available in the back garden

#### **J. Bin Storage**

- Bins will stored in the rear garden on the northern side.

#### **K. Residents Needs**

The government has outlined 5 key outcomes to be achieved for children and young people. Our support is tailored towards achieving the following outcomes:

- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being

We aim to provide our young people with support and attention they may have missed, to help them learn about being human, how to understand their emotions and how to self-regulate and

handle the consequences of those emotions. We aim to give them security so they can stay still and actually feel safe, so they can feel cared for without the option of running away from this feeling.

The young people are encouraged to learn about themselves and the choices they can make for their future through everyday relationships with staff, adults and other young people. We will support and build their skills in learning at their school so they can gain qualifications and start to believe in their own ability to achieve.

#### **L. Education**

The young people are school going age so will be supported to access school/ college on a daily basis. HCS supports 24 hr curriculum through provision of educational activities around the home and external trips. Where a young person wishes to pursue further education they will be supported through the application process for college, apprenticeships, work experience, mentoring schemes.

#### **M. Health and Mental Health**

Children and Young people are supported to access healthcare professionals and therapists including counsellors. Good eating habits will be taught and encouraged. When young people first move in, we ensure that they are registered with a Doctor, Dentist and Optician. Innovative partnership with the GP service will be established.

#### **N. Support Networks**

HCS assists the young people to engage in voluntary sector advocates and specialists from other agencies such as Connexions or the local health service. We are working on engaging with Barnados through their Start Smart Peer mentoring programme in which young people become positive role model mentors. HCS will foster positive friendships which will enable young people to build reliable support networks. HCS will provide mentoring schemes through the support staff as informal support.