



Planning Statement for the Proposed Residential Children's Homes

2A and 2B Umfreville Road, Haringey, London, N4 1RX

Background to Care Steps UK Ltd

Care Steps UK Ltd is a new Therapeutic Residential Children's Care provider with future plans to grow into supported living. Our overarching aim is to care for children and young people aged 8–18 years who are Looked After by the Local Authority, preparing them to transition from our homes into foster care, or into adulthood and independence.

The provision will be run by an experienced and diverse staff team comprising of:

1. Support Workers
2. Senior Support Workers
3. Deputy Manager
4. Home Manager
5. Psychologist

Aims and Objectives

Care Steps UK Ltd aims to provide children and young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties ('EBD') a safe, therapeutic, and nurturing environment in which to develop their full potential. Our objective is to deliver high-quality care in a warm and welcoming home environment, tailored to the needs of each child or young person.

Our care programmes will focus on five elements of personal development:

- Emotional
- Social
- Intellectual
- Health & Wellbeing
- Cultural

This framework aligns with the Every Child Matters agenda, the Children Act 1989, the Care Leavers Charter, and the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2018. We work in partnership with parents/families, Local Authorities, education professionals, CAMHS, therapists, and other agencies.

Current and Proposed Use of the Properties

The properties are currently two adjoining residential dwellings. We propose to convert them into two therapeutic residential children's homes providing care for up to 4 children and young people aged 8–18 years. Staffing ratios will be based on assessed needs, typically a minimum of 1:1 support for each child or young person, with higher ratios provided where required to ensure safety, wellbeing, and therapeutic care.

To meet Ofsted requirements, the homes will be registered under the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2018. As such, planning consent is required to change the use class from C3 (Dwelling House) to C2 (Residential Care Home).

Parking and Transport

There are 2 parking spaces available at the front of the property and 4 spaces at the rear, alongside 2 on-street permits. Visitor permits may also be obtained from the council when necessary. However, we expect most staff to use the excellent public transport links in the area (Underground, Overground, and buses). Safe bicycle storage is also provided.

Staffing and Rota Arrangements

The staffing structure includes a Home Manager, Deputy Manager, Senior Residential Support Workers (Snr RSWs), Residential Support Workers (RSWs), and Waking Night staff. A psychologist will also support the therapeutic model.

To provide consistency of care while minimising local disruption, staff movements are structured:

- Staff shift changes typically occur at 7:00am and 10:00pm.
- There are always 4 staff on duty across both homes at any time.
- The Home Manager and Deputy Manager work between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday.
- Waking Night staff are on duty between 10:00pm and 7:00am.
- The majority of staff are expected to use public transport, limiting vehicle use.

This structured rota ensures continuity of care, safeguards the children and young people, and reduces unnecessary traffic or parking impact on neighbours. Staffing ratios are maintained at a minimum of 1:1, with higher levels of support where needed.

Children and Young People Who Will Live at the Homes

We intend to provide a home for up to 4 children and young people at any one time, aged between 8 and 18. Care Steps UK Ltd has a robust risk assessment process to ensure each child or young person is appropriately matched to the home and receives the correct level of support.

Typical presenting needs may include:

- Challenging behaviours
- Exclusion from school
- History of abuse or exploitation
- Substance misuse
- Mental health needs

Our therapeutic approach is designed to enable children and young people to step down into foster care, or to develop the life skills needed to transition successfully into independent living as adults.

Accommodation

2A and 2B Umfreville Road are two adjoining 3-bedroomed properties. Each home includes:

- 2 children's bedrooms
- 1 upstairs bathroom
- 1 downstairs WC
- 1 office/therapy room
- 1 living room
- 1 kitchen/dining room
- A garden

Parking is available at both the front and rear.

Visitors

As with any family home, children and young people are encouraged to maintain positive friendships and relationships. Visitor access is allowed after school hours until 9:30pm during term time, and between 10:30am and 10:00pm at weekends and during holidays, subject to risk assessment, social worker approval, and individual support plans.

Visitors will be monitored through ID checks, signing the visitor book, and restrictions where necessary to safeguard residents and staff. Professional visitors such as Social Workers, CAMHS, and YOT workers will also attend as required.

Community, Safeguarding and General Arrangements

House rules are provided to all children and young people on admission. These encourage respect for neighbours and the local community. Should any concerns arise, the management team will proactively liaise with local residents to address issues. Complaints will be handled in line with our Complaints Policy, and outcomes will be communicated in a timely manner.

We are committed to safeguarding and community integration, working closely with the Local Authority, Haringey Council, Ofsted, and the local neighbourhood policing team.

Weekly Health and Safety checks will include:

- Room checks
- Water temperature checks
- Fire safety checks
- Health and safety walkarounds
- Regular fire evacuation drills

A responsive maintenance system ensures any issues are logged, prioritised, and repaired within appropriate timescales.

