

**Management Statement for the Proposed Residential Children's Home
25 Keston Road, London, N176PW**

Background to Liberi Care Ltd

Liberi Care Ltd is a new Residential Children's Care, Supported Accommodation Provider with possible growth into family assessment placements in the future. Our overarching aim is to support young people between the ages of 7-18 years of age who are Looked After by the Local Authority to prepare them holistically for their transition to returning home or into adulthood and independence.

Our aim is to prepare each young person with the necessary skills to cope and thrive economically, practically, socially, and emotionally as they move on and transition into adulthood and independence.

The Provision above will be run by an experienced and diverse staff team that comprises of:

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

Our Aims and Objectives

Liberi Care aims to provide a safe place for every young person to recover from previous trauma with the opportunity to explore independence within a supportive environment where they can develop the necessary skills which are needed for them to successfully live independently as adults within the community.

Liberi Care recognise that each young person has individual, unique and specific needs; we aim to respond to these by providing a quality service that is motivating for each young person. Liberi Care will provide support via a skilled, nurturing, and caring staff team who have the knowledge, expertise, and tenacity to teach and support the young people and keep them safe. Each young person being cared for by Liberi Care will have a key worker(s) who will be responsible and accountable for overseeing their needs and will ensure that they have a specific support package which is designed to meet their needs and will be produced in consultation with them (the young person), their allocated Social Worker and is in line with their overarching plan from the Local Authority.

Liberi Care will work with each young person using programmes of care that aims to assess areas of strength and view areas of development incorporating values and guidelines from Volume 3 - Children Act 1989 "Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers". We will endeavour to Adhere to the Care Leavers Charter and within the Local Offer for Care leavers.

Current and Proposed Use of the Property

Currently the home is a regulated HMO, however we want to transition into a home providing care to children between the ages of 7-18 years old, who are recovering from trauma and/or preparing to return home to parents or family members, moving on to foster care or preparing to live alone in their own accommodation. This provision does not need planning regulations as it is considered a family home.

It is planned that young people from the ages of 7-18 years will reside at the above address with adequate staffing levels with the possibility of 1:1 or 2:1 support depending on their needs.

It is a requirement of our regulators (Ofsted) that this provision is to be regulated and registered through them and that they will have full oversight of the home's activities. As such the home will be run in accordance with Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2018. To gain registration with Ofsted the home must have gained full planning consent.

Therefore, it is proposed that this property has a change of use to provide care to children in the context of a Children's Home rather than an HMO with the support of a maximum **10 full-time staff members who will operate on a shift basis**, with planning consent to convert the home from a C3 Dwelling House to C2 Residential Care Home.

The property will remain as it is, with minimal alterations. We will not need to make alterations to enhance the fire, health, and safety aspects of the home e.g. the installation of a Fire Alarm Panel System, Emergency Lighting and Fire Doors etc. as this is in existence due to its previous use. (The exception being for the installation of window restrictors and internal door alarms)

The young people will have 4/5 staff working with them throughout the 24-hour period. The shift patterns will be dictated by the need of the young people entering the home i.e. if they attend school; hours will need to ensure we can meet the needs of a school run for up to 5 children. However, we anticipate the team will start around 8am or 10am so staff leaving/arriving will be staggered, we also anticipate given the location that many of the team will arrive by public transport (we have 2 tube stations within in a 15min walk to the home and the area is serviced by a good network of busses) there will be fewer people arriving at the weekend as the manager will not work at weekends.

There will be additional visitors but no more than can be expected in a normal family home. The staff members will not receive visitors, only the children will receive statutory Social Worker visits with possible additions of occasional independent Reviewing Officers and advocates.

As it is the government's intention for Looked After Children to gain the same opportunities and life chances as non-Looked After Children, we are proposing to meet the Local Authority's need for more children's occupancy provision, with "family" units for the children. Across the nation there is a significant shortage of placements available for Looked After Children.

Service Users

At 25 Keston Road, London, N176PW, we intend on accommodating up to 5 young person at any one time. These young people will be between the ages of 7-18. Liberi Care has a robust risk matching process in place to ensure that every young person has the right level of support in place to meet their needs and to ensure that the provision of accommodation is appropriately match also. Young People accessing this home may come with varying complexities and support needs, some examples include:

- Behaviours that challenge, however, does not meet the threshold for 2:1 support.
- NEET – Not in education or employment.

- Requires support with budgeting, appointments, and other life skills.
- Substance Misuse.
- Mental Health.

The journey length for young people at 25 Keston Road could be from the time they join all the way up until they are 18 years of age. We work closely with the placing Local Authority Contract and Commissioning Team to ensure that the young person's needs are always being met and that the provision is suitable, and regularly reviewed.

Accommodation

25 Keston Road, London, N176PW is a 5-bedroom 5-bathroom terraced house that comprises:

- 5 young person's bedrooms
 - 2 with ensembles
- 1 office/ staff sleep-in bedroom with w/c and shower
- 1 downstairs w/c Shower room (for young persons)
- 1 upstairs family bathroom (for young persons)
- 2 living rooms
- A dining kitchen room
- A small sized front and medium rear garden
- There is parking available on the street with parking permits required.

Staff

25 Keston Road, London, N176PW is to be staffed with up to 4-5 x Support Workers during the day and a Manager (Monday to Friday). During the night there will be a minimum of 2 support workers. Support Workers, (one will be sleeping in and one will be awake), are expected to provide support during these hours to the young persons should this be required. The sleep in staff member will keep the work mobile phone on charge by their bed, and this must not be on silent, to ensure they are contactable in emergencies. The other support worker will be awake.

There is a Home Manager, deputy manager and 1 senior support worker within the regular support worker team that oversees the care at Keston Road, London, N17 6PW. The Home Manager will work at the home generally Monday to Friday each week. Out of hours the Home Manager is always in regular communication with the home and managing its activities there is always a duty on call Manager on hand to provide support.

Transportation

All staff and visitors at Keston Road, London, N176PW are encouraged to use public transport to access the property. There is a good network of transport in the area including Tubes, Overground and Busses.

The property has no driveway but there is on street parking via permit, team members will need to apply for their own permits should they want to drive by car, and it will be at the discretion of the local authority as to if they receive a permit or not. Should a staff member come via bicycle or similar there is storage space for bikes. There is also additional public parking close to the address.

Visitors

As within in any ordinary family home young people are encouraged to maintain positive friendships and relationships. To ensure young people can do this, we allow their visitors access during the school term after school until 9.30pm, in school holidays and at the weekend between 10.30 am and 9.00pm however, this is subject to individual support plans and risk assessments, placement planning meetings and Social Worker approval. Times will be subject to suitability of the age of young person and occasion.

There is a visitor monitoring system in place for the young person, where concerns are identified with a visitor, they may be marked as a 'restricted' visitor, to Safeguard the young people, staff, and accommodation.

We will have external professional visitors such as – Social Workers, CAMHS Workers, YOT Workers who may visit from time to time.

All visitors are required to inform us in advance, unless in exceptional circumstances, to ensure a safe environment for all the children residing at the home.

We will discuss numbers of visitors with young people to assess if the numbers are acceptable/sustainable within the context of travel/parking and safety within the home.

Safety measures are taken whenever a visitor enters the home in including:

- Details obtained (name, address, contact number etc.)
- Verification of ID.
- Required to sign the "visitors book".

General

The type and amount of waste will be similar to that of any like sized residential family property. Waste/recycling bins will be provided for on-site to ensure all waste requirements are adequately catered for. There will be no clinical or toxic waste from the property.

Weekly Health and Safety checks take place to include:

- Room Checks
- Water Checks (temperature)
- Fire Safety Checks (call points)
- Health and Safety Walkarounds (including gardens)
- Regular fire evacuations drills as required by regulators

We operate a maintenance system. Whenever there is a maintenance concern, this is added to the record, RAG rated and then timescales allocated for repairs.

For urgent maintenance issues, the Duty Manager would be contacted to request out of hours maintenance team attendance.

House Rules are incorporated into the young person's welcome pack and discussed during induction, the House Rules ensure young people are being respectful to those they live with, their support team, and to the surrounding neighbours. If there were concerns with anti-social behaviour in the home, the Manager and team members will proactively reach out to the neighbours to discuss our internal plan of action to combat the concerns, the neighbours would also be provided a copy of our complaints policy and a complaint form.

We will continue to work with the Local Authority, local council, Ofsted, and the local neighbourhood policing team to ensure the home integrates into the local community. We commit to being responsive when concerns arise and will ensure all complaints are dealt with in line with our Complaints Policy timescales. The complainant would be kept informed of the progress of their complaint throughout the investigation process, and we would endeavour to resolve the complaint in a timely manner. We would encourage reparation work to be undertaken by a young person where appropriate, to reduce any barriers to community participation and strengthen relationships within the community.