

Security Measures Context Document

Property Address:

56 Colyer Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 8AY

Purpose:

To provide context and justification for not implementing certain recommended security measures at the residential children's care home, in light of their potential conflict with legal standards and practical considerations.

Security Measures Under Contest

1. Secure Gates and Boundary Treatments:

Recommendation:

Due to the proposed use of the site, we would recommend the applicant review current site security and boundary treatments. We advise boundary treatments to be 1.8m in height with support beams facing inwards, any gates to a rear/side access must also be securely lockable from both sides. It is essential that there is no unauthorised access to the rear of the site either via the side access route or via neighbouring premises.

Context and Justification:

- **Freedom of Movement:** Lockable gates may infringe on the basic rights of movement for children in our care. These measures would only be implemented if a child poses significant risks to themselves or others, and with necessary sign-off from the local authority social worker.
- **Risk-Based Implementation:** In cases where specific risks are identified, such as severe behavioural issues, we may consider the use of lockable gates as a safeguarding measure, following proper legal and administrative procedures.

2. Installation of CCTV:

Recommendation:

We recommend CCTV be installed at the main entrance doors to monitor the movements of the occupiers. In some circumstances, it can be advisable for staff to carry personal attack alarms and in some instances BWV cameras for safety purposes.

Context and Justification:

- **Privacy Concerns:** The installation of CCTV can raise significant privacy issues for the children in our care, potentially creating an environment of surveillance rather than support.
- **Legal Implications:** The use of CCTV must comply with data protection laws and regulations. Continuous monitoring may only be appropriate if it is proportionate to the identified risks and justified under specific legal requirements.

- **Individual Risk Assessments:** CCTV may be used selectively in situations where there is a clear, documented need to monitor specific risks associated with particular children, and with appropriate consent and legal backing.
- **Alternative Measures:** We propose alternative measures, such as increased staff presence and engagement, to ensure the safety and security of the home without compromising the rights and privacy of the children.

Security Measures We Support

3. Lighting for Natural Surveillance:

Recommendation:

We recommend lighting to cover entrances and the parking area to aid in natural surveillance.

Support and Implementation:

- **Improved Safety:** Adequate lighting enhances visibility and safety around the property, deterring unauthorised access and improving the security of residents and staff.
- **Implementation Plan:** We will install appropriate lighting at all entrances and in the parking area to ensure clear visibility and natural surveillance.

4. Enhanced Door and Window Security:

Recommendation:

We strongly recommend external doors and windows meet PAS 24: 2022 UKAS certified standard, STS 201, or LPS 2081 Security Rating B+. Existing rear doors and windows that are not being replaced may require limiters/restrictors to help maintain security.

Support and Implementation:

- **Secure Entrances:** Upgrading external doors and windows to meet high security standards will prevent unauthorised entry and enhance the overall safety of the property.
- **Practical Measures:** We will ensure that all new and existing doors and windows meet the recommended security standards, including the use of limiters and restrictors where necessary.

Conclusion:

While we recognize and appreciate the recommendations provided to enhance the security of the children's care home at 56 Colyer Road, we must balance these with legal requirements and the rights of the children in our care. We have outlined our position and provided context for not implementing certain measures, and we remain committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment through appropriate and legally compliant means.

Contact Information: For further discussion or clarification, please contact:

- [REDACTED]
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