



Gravesham Borough Council

Strategic Commissioning
3rd Floor B Block
County Hall
Sessions House
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XU

Date: 20 October 2023
Email: robin.cahill@kent.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madame,

**Re: Change of use from a Residential House for Semi-Independent Adults to a Childrens Home, Reference No.: 20230865
2 Dickens Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2JY, New Pathway1 Ltd**

This letter sets out a statement of support from Kent County Council (KCC) Children's Commissioning relating to the above planning application of a change of use to Residential Care Home for children aged 8-18.

KCC aims to place children within Kent wherever possible, as long as this is in the best interest of the child. The Covid-19 crisis has led to limited availability of children's home places so it is the authorities hope that the new home at 2 Dickens Road, Gravesend will provide increased capacity in the near future.

As a local authority, a range of placements for children are commissioned, including those regulated in accordance with their needs. To ensure that provision is of the appropriate standard and quality, we have built up a portfolio of providers over time, which includes New Pathway1 Ltd, that are able to meet the needs of children, specifically in the geographical areas where placements are required.

There are occasions where we need to source a regulated placement for children who have complex needs and behaviours, which has seen the Council rely on providers such as New Pathway1 Ltd to care for some of Kent's most vulnerable children. Children placed with New Pathway1 Ltd have thrived and have gone on to achieve independence in their local communities.

The need for regulated accommodation for complex children has been acknowledged as a strategic priority for KCC commissioned services. 2 Dickens Road, Gravesend would form a key part of ongoing transitional work to provide the best start in life for vulnerable children.

KCC Children's Commissioning have met with Olabisi Solomon, Manager and Responsible Individual at New Pathway1 Ltd, and hearing about their possible service offering in Gravesend, we can confirm KCC would consider making referrals and spot purchasing placements at this home.

The children's home would need to be registered with Ofsted and provide care for children with a range of needs, including Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD), Learning Disability (LD) and/ or Autism (A).

I am happy to clarify any areas should this be required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Cahill', written in a cursive style.

Robin Cahill
Senior Commissioner