

CARE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared on behalf of: Last Chipendo / Diana Chipendo – DMC Consulting Services Ltd

Site address: 73 Beaumont Drive, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 9NN

Application reference: GB/20250016

Application type: Full Planning Permission

Prepared by: Inhaus Planning, Suite Ra01, 195-197 Wood Street, London, E17 3NU

1.0 Overview of the Home and Ethos

The children's home at 73 Beaumont Drive, Northfleet will be operated by DMC Consulting Services Ltd, a specialist provider of residential childcare services. The home will provide care for a maximum of two children between the ages of ten and seventeen with emotional and behavioural difficulties (EBD) and social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH). The fundamental ethos of the home is to provide each child with a genuinely domestic, community-integrated living environment in which they can develop stable relationships, engage meaningfully with education and community life, and build the emotional resilience required for a positive future.

The home is deliberately small in scale. Research consistently demonstrates that small residential settings achieve better outcomes for children with complex needs than larger group care environments. A maximum of two placements allows staff to dedicate sustained, consistent attention to each child, developing the deep relational bonds that are the foundation of effective therapeutic residential care. The domestic scale and character of the property on Beaumont Drive — indistinguishable in appearance from any other family home on the street — directly supports this approach.

2.0 Staffing Structure and Operational Management

2.1 Staffing Presence

The home will be staffed twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days a year. At all times, trained and appropriately qualified staff will be present at the property. No child will be left unsupervised at any time. The staffing ratio will be maintained at a minimum of two members of staff per child, ensuring that each child receives individualised attention and that staff are able to respond promptly and effectively to any situation that may arise.

2.2 Shift Patterns and Continuity

Staff will work extended shifts of twenty-four to forty-eight hours. This model is chosen specifically to reduce the frequency of shift changeovers, which benefits both the children and the surrounding neighbourhood. For the children, fewer changes of staff mean greater consistency of relationships and a more settled, predictable daily environment. For the neighbourhood, fewer shift changeovers translate directly into fewer vehicle movements and less activity at the property at unsociable hours.

During the day shift (07:00 to 19:00), a maximum of four staff members will be on site. During the night shift (19:00 to 07:00), two staff members will remain present. Night cover arrangements — whether waking or sleep-in — will be determined by the risk assessment of the children in placement, as required by the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015. This will be subject to scrutiny and approval by Ofsted as part of the registration process.

3.0 Care Delivery Model

3.1 Individualised Care and Placement Matching

Every placement decision will be preceded by a thorough matching process. Before any child is placed at the home, DMC Consulting Services Ltd will review the child's care plan, risk assessments,

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educational needs, and therapeutic requirements to confirm that the home is an appropriate match.

Placements will be predominantly long-term, designed to offer children the stability and continuity that is fundamental to their recovery and development. The home will not accept emergency placements.

3.2 Keyworking and Support

Each child will be allocated a named keyworker who takes primary responsibility for their individual care plan, their relationship with the placing authority, and their daily support. The keyworking relationship is the cornerstone of the therapeutic model: a consistent, trusted adult who knows the child well and advocates for their needs. Keyworkers will maintain regular contact with the child's social worker, independent reviewing officer, and family where appropriate.

3.3 Education and Daily Structure

All children resident at the home will be supported to access full-time education appropriate to their needs and abilities. Staff will work closely with local schools, pupil referral units, or alternative education providers to ensure that each child attends regularly and is supported in their learning. A structured daily routine will be maintained, providing the predictability and boundaries that children with EBD and SEMH needs find supportive. Routine activities, community engagement, and leisure pursuits will be incorporated into each child's daily and weekly programme.

4.0 Therapeutic and Health Support

DMC Consulting Services Ltd will ensure that each child has access to appropriate therapeutic support tailored to their individual needs. Depending on the child's care plan, this may include referral to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), access to independent therapeutic practitioners, or participation in structured therapeutic programmes. Healthcare needs will be managed in conjunction with the child's allocated GP and relevant clinical teams.

All therapeutic and health appointments will be arranged and attended by staff in accordance with each child's care plan and the requirements of the placing local authority. Where clinical appointments take place off-site, staff will transport the child safely and provide the necessary support and advocacy.

5.0 Safeguarding and Risk Management

The safety and welfare of each child is the paramount concern of all staff and management. The home will operate in full accordance with the safeguarding frameworks established by Working Together to Safeguard Children (updated March 2026), the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, and all relevant Ofsted standards. DMC Consulting Services Ltd maintains comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures that will be embedded in the operation of the home from the outset.

Risk assessments will be maintained for each child and for the home environment, updated regularly and in response to any significant change in circumstances. All staff will hold current enhanced DBS clearance and will receive regular safeguarding training appropriate to their role. A designated safeguarding lead will be identified within the management structure.

6.0 Behaviour Management and Incident Response

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The home will adopt a positive behaviour support approach, seeking always to understand the underlying needs and experiences that drive a child's behaviour rather than simply responding to the behaviour itself. Physical intervention will be used only as a last resort, in accordance with the Restrictive Physical Intervention policy approved by Ofsted, and only by staff trained to the appropriate standard. All incidents requiring any form of physical intervention will be recorded and reported in accordance with regulatory requirements.

The management team will monitor incident data regularly to identify patterns and review the effectiveness of the behaviour support approach. Where incidents suggest that a placement is not meeting a child's needs, the responsible local authority will be notified and a review of the placement will be convened promptly.

7.0 Staff Training and Professional Development

All staff working at the home will hold, or be working towards, the Level 3 Diploma in Residential Childcare or an equivalent qualification recognised by Ofsted. Ongoing training will be provided in safeguarding, trauma-informed care, behaviour support, first aid, fire safety, and all other areas required by the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015. Training records will be maintained and reviewed as part of the home's quality assurance arrangements.

8.0 Transition and Independence

As children approach the end of their placement — whether by transition to another setting, return to family, or progression toward independent living — staff will work proactively with the placing authority and the child to plan a managed, supported transition. For older young people approaching the age of eighteen, the home will support engagement with the relevant local authority's Leaving Care team to ensure continuity of support into adulthood.

9.0 Monitoring and Quality Assurance

The home will operate a comprehensive internal quality assurance framework. The Registered Manager (once appointed prior to Ofsted registration) will be responsible for day-to-day operational oversight. The Responsible Individual will visit the home regularly and produce written reports as required by regulation. The home will be subject to Ofsted inspection at intervals determined by the inspectorate. All regulatory reports will be acted upon promptly and any required improvements implemented without delay.

10.0 Summary

This Care Management Plan demonstrates that the proposed children's home at 73 Beaumont Drive, Northfleet will be operated to a high professional standard, in full compliance with the regulatory framework governing children's homes in England, and with the safety, welfare, and positive outcomes of the children at the heart of every aspect of its operation. The home will be a positive presence in the Northfleet community: quiet, domestic in character, professionally managed, and making a meaningful contribution to addressing the identified national need for residential care placements for looked-after

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