

2 Old Road East – Management Statement

Background to My Life

My Life are specialist providers of Accommodation and services to young people. The company currently works with councils (including KCC) across London and the home counties.

The company has contracts with various councils to provide accommodation and support services for looked after children. My Life has a number of accommodation provisions and staffed homes that the council uses to place some of their most vulnerable looked after children and young people.

The company is well respected in the sector as a quality provider producing good outcomes for young people.

Proposed Use and Care Arrangements

At this property we will be operating a small residential care home for children between the ages of 8-17. The maximum number of children housed at any one time will be 4. They will be predominantly long term placements for the children who may reside in the home until they turn eighteen.

At My Life our Ethos is simple, we provide children with a safe and stable environment where we can assess their needs and provide medium and long terms plans to ensure these needs are met. We want children to both enjoy and benefit from their time at the home while they receive the highest quality of care.

We will be working with children and young people who are experiencing emotional difficulties and who have experienced trauma in their lives. Some children or young people may have been assessed or currently be in the process of being assessed as having a special educational need and will be supported by a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

We can support children and young people from the local authority of Kent but also, we offer accommodation for children from other placing authorities.

We understand the many different challenges that children and young people face throughout their development, and we aim to provide a consistent and nurturing environment which can provide the stability they require to thrive.

We recognise in order for children and young people to reach their fullest potential they need stable foundations in all areas of their development, therefore we will provide support and guidance in the following areas.

- To feel stable, safe and secure
- To be healthy and happy
- To Enjoy and Achieve through education, activities, and opportunities
- To make and sustain positive relationships
- To be involved in decisions making

We will achieve these outcomes by ensuring the following:

- Practice which is consistent with good parenting values.
- providing a safe, homely, caring and nurturing environment.
- robust placement matching;
- collaborative planning meetings.
- an experienced, competent, qualified, motivated and well-supported staff team.
- Individual Support Plans which are regularly reviewed.
- effective links and involvement with parents and relevant professionals.
- a broad vision of learning where we value, enrich and develop all skills through an overarching curriculum.
- a wide range of activities and opportunities for enjoyment; and
- collaboration between care, education, and health to achieve mutual objectives.

The children will live in the house communally, and will contribute to the household and be involved in the preparation of meals with staff and children eating together.

The internal layout will remain similar to a dwellinghouse with bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room. One of the existing bedrooms on the 2nd floor will be dedicated as a staff bedroom and another on the ground floor as a dining room. There are no external alterations to the building proposed and there will be no external signage so there will no changes to the appearance of the property to indicate that it is different to a dwellinghouse. There will be a fenced garden which will be Astro turfed so that the young people have a nice outside space to use.

The children will attend school/ college either locally or at other locations where appropriate and depending on their needs. There will be monthly visits from social workers and also 6 monthly Looked After reviews. The children will not receive family visits at the property as these will take place at other premises.

In terms of the Care Standards Act 2000, residential children's homes (and the Registered Home managers who run the homes) are required to register with OFSTED as a social care provider before they can operate and it is an offence not to do so. This registration is essential in order that OFSTED can:

- protect children and young people
- ensure that the establishment meets the requirements of the relevant legislation
- ensure that providers and managers deliver good services
- provide information about the quality of an establishment to a range of stakeholders including: children/young people, parents, carers and commissioners.

This entails an initial very in-depth application process supported by a significant amount of information pertaining to the home e.g. Statement of Purpose, Location Assessment, Policies & Procedures, the Children's guide etc.

The Applicant will submit their OFSTED registration once the application has been determined.

Pre-admission matching risk assessments will be carried out to determine the suitability of all young people prior to them being admitted to the property. This is to make sure that the young people will get on together and that we can meet their needs.

There will be a set of house rules that all young people must abide by. The young people will receive this in their Welcome pack when they are admitted into the home. Where rules are breached, a meeting will be held with the young person's social worker to discuss what consequences need to be put in place, this could result in the young person losing their placement.

Staff

The proposed staff structure is based on a rota system of two primary non-resident care staff. There would be a 24.5 hour shift system with changeover at 09:00 and 09:30 the next day. The care provision would be 24 hours a day seven days a week. There would also be a Home Manager present from 9.00 to 17.00 Monday to Friday. This would result in there being 2 carers and 4 children using the property and a third adult present during the day.

All staff are trained in Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) and know how to manage and de-escalate difficult situations but moreover know how to engage and promote the welfare of the children. The company is owned and managed by a small team of specialists who are social work qualified and have been in the childcare sector for many years having worked within local authority child care teams, in the private sector and in children's homes at support worker and management level.

We anticipate that most of the staff will not drive to and from work, this is based on experience of running other similar sites. Staff will commute either by public transport or by foot and the train station in the Gravesend town is a short walk away. In cases where staff drive, we do have an agreement with the Prince of Orange pub opposite, which will allow us to park up to 10 cars each day. There is a bike rack to the side of the house where staff will be able to store their bikes.

Visitors

There will be visits from social workers to the property about once a month and a looked after review conducted every 6 months. The children would not receive family visits at the home. Where these are arranged they would be held at other locations, for example at family contact centres. Other visitors to the property would be no different to a typical C3 use.

Where visitors require parking arrangements will be made in advance for use of the parking bays set aside at the Prince of Orange Pub as per the parking agreement.

General

The type and amount of waste will be similar to that of any like sized residential property. Waste/recycling bins will be provided for on-site to ensure all waste requirements are adequately catered for as per existing arrangements .

There will be no clinical or toxic waste from the property.

As the home has been used before for semi-independent supported living for young people, we have built up good relationships with the neighbours and local amenities. We also have worked closely with the police and neighbourhood watch team so that we work collectively to achieve good outcomes for the young people.

Associated Regulations and Guide to be considered when conducting Review of Premises and Location Risk Assessment

The setting up of a children's home is governed by legislation set out in the Care Standards Act 2000 and Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015. The process is regulated by OFSTED. A summary of these requirements is set out below:

Review of premises 46.—

(1) The registered person must review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises used for the purposes of the children's home at least once in each calendar year taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)(c) (the protection of children standard).

(2) When conducting the review, the registered person must consult, and take into account the views of, each relevant person. (The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015)

The protection of children standard 12 (2)(c) that the premises used for the purposes of the home are located so that children are effectively safeguarded; (The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015)

3.23 The home should be located in an area that supports children's safety, well-being and personal development. The location of the home should support its aims, objectives and

ethos, as described in the Statement of Purpose. (Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards April 2015)

When establishing the home, the registered person must ensure that it is suitably located so that children are effectively safeguarded and can access services to meet needs identified in their relevant plans (see regulations 12(2)(c)). Under regulation 46, the registered person should review the appropriateness and suitability of the location and premises of the home at least once a year. The review should include the identification of any risks and opportunities presented by the home's location and strategies for managing these. (Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards April 2015)

2. Framework

Framework for assessing a Location assessment will need to address two issues:

1. Safeguarding concerns
2. Accessibility of local services

Location assessments should be completed by providers of new homes in consultation with relevant services in the area where the home is, or will be, located. It is important for the manager or a potential new provider to have a broad understanding of the characteristics of the area where a home is or may be located. Looked-after children placed in deprived areas, perhaps far away from the authority responsible for their care, may face disadvantage and lack opportunities to enjoy and achieve in these communities.

The considerations a home manager or potential provider of a new home will need to take into account, as they carry out a location assessment, may include:

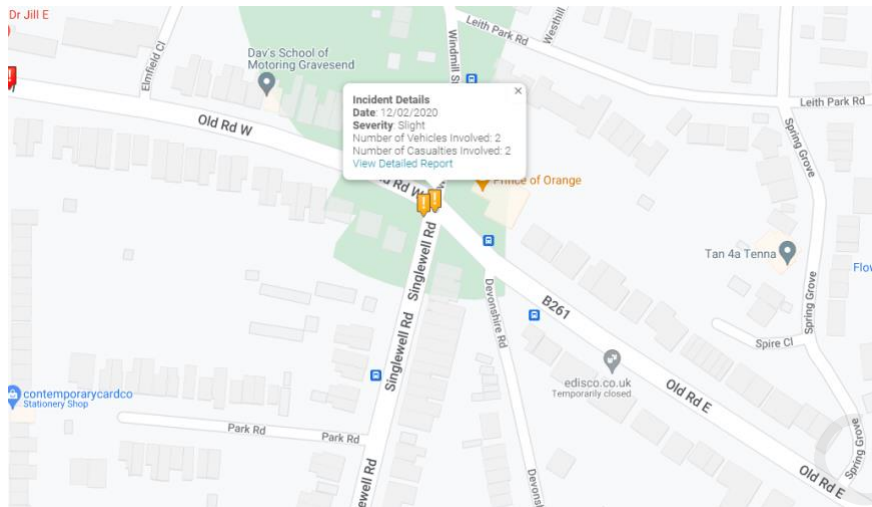
- Whether the location of the home influences the potential for an already vulnerable child to be a victim of crime, such as being targeted for sexual exploitation;
- Whether there is a likelihood of children placed in the home becoming drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the local area;
- The suitability of the local neighbourhood as a location to care for children who may have already been victims of abuse and neglect.

Location assessments should also take into account any positive features in a local community that would offer benefits to children living in a children's home. For example, assessments could include evidence about opportunities for children to participate in leisure, sporting or cultural activities, or links with services that could support the child's ethnic or religious identity.

Location Risk Assessment

Below is a summary of the locational risk assessments factors considered for 2 Old Road East and external advisers have confirmed that the assessment shows that the location is suitable.

Road Transport Safety



From the information reviewed there has been no local fatal road traffic accidents in the 2020/2021

There has been no incidents in this year on the junction where the home is situated.

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Search>

Housing

Housing Types

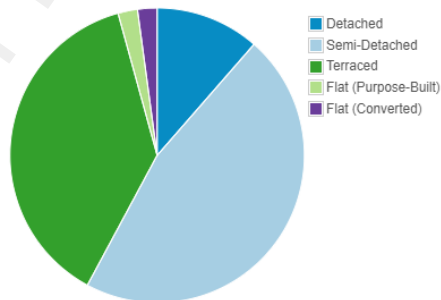
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This area contains a mixture of housing types, as detailed below. No single type of dwelling accounts for more than 50% of the dwellings. **Please note that the figures may include adjacent streets** - see the Summary tab for an explanation and map of the area that these figures cover.

Housing Types

Detached	16
Semi-Detached	65
Terraced	53
Flat (Purpose-Built)	3
Flat (Converted)	3
Total	140

[Are these numbers higher than you expected? Click here for explanation.](#)



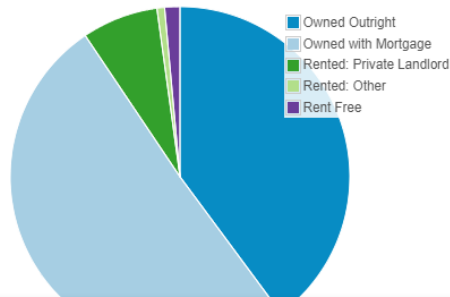
Housing Tenure

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This area consists predominantly of housing where the property is being repaid through a mortgage arrangement. The national average is just under 33%, while in this area it represents 51% of housing spaces.

Housing Tenure

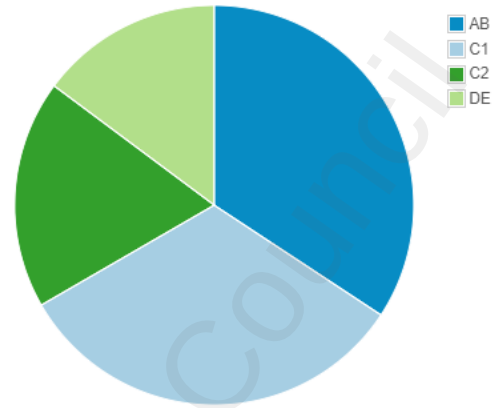
Owned Outright	55
Owned with Mortgage	70
Shared Ownership	0
Rented: From Council	0
Rented: Other Social <i>inc. charities and housing associations</i>	0
Rented: Private Landlord <i>inc. letting agents</i>	10



Economic Activity

Social Grade

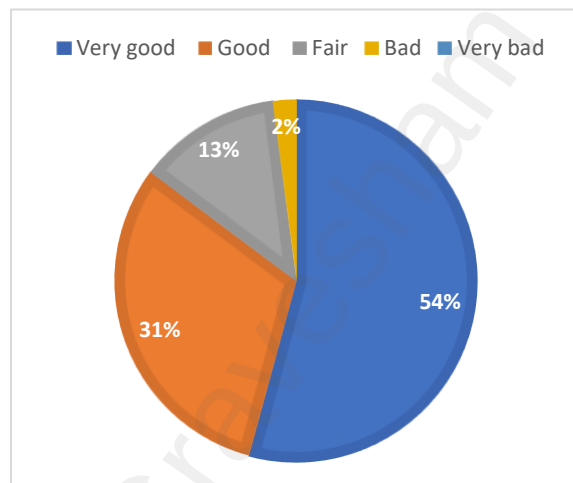
AB - Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative, or professional positions	37
C1 - Supervisory, clerical, and junior managerial/administrative/professional positions	35
C2 - Skilled manual workers	20
DE - Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers; those on state benefit/unemployed, & lowest grade workers	16
Total	108



A high percentage of adults employed in the local area are employed. Only a small percentage are not in employment, training or education, retired or other.

Health

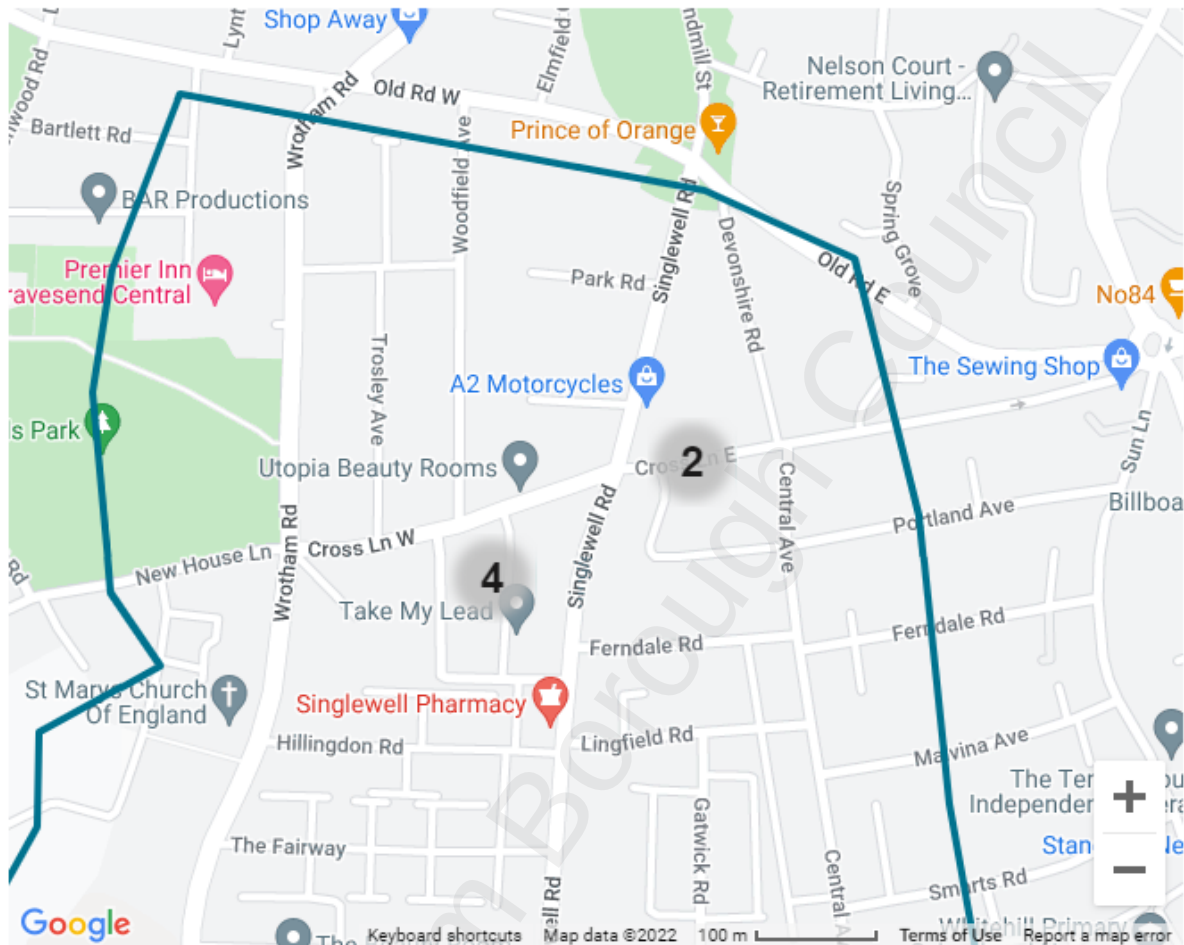
Health in the UK is strongly tied to age as you would expect, but the affluence of a neighbourhood also has strong influence, with deprived areas often showing poorer standards of health. In this location 85% rated themselves as Good or over.



Very Good	187
Good	107
Fair	44
Bad	7
Very Bad	3

Data courtesy of <https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/da83aw> Jan'22

Crime January'22 in the local area



Anti-social behaviour	Drugs	Violence or sexual offences	Theft	Possession of a weapon	Criminal	Robbery	Other crime
0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1

Although both Anti-social and Violence or sexual offences are comparably highest, these categories cover a wide range of offences, from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm through to more serious incidents.