



Operational Management Plan for Shine Sc Ltd

Hazel Blossom House, 1 West Lodge, Putteridge Park, Luton, Beds, LU2 8LA

(Revised text 17-09-2025)

The Registered Manager's duties include managing and supervising the day-to-day care and management of children and young people, staff and the home. The needs and behaviour of children and young people are constantly examined through observations and monitoring to identify needs, concerns, and issues while analysing risks and behavioural management plans. Also, it is essential to complete development plans to ensure that the most effective interventions are delivered.

All staff will be hired in accordance with the safer recruitment policy and procedure, ensuring that children are cared for by individuals with the most relevant expertise and skills. Staff are DBS-checked and have references. During their probation period, the Registered Manager will ensure that all employees have undergone a thorough induction program and have completed all mandatory training. The Registered Manager will undergo a probationary phase during which they will lead, manage, supervise, and support the team. Staff will be subjected to formal one-on-one supervision regularly and will be evaluated annually to ensure that they provide the most significant level of care to residents while also contributing to the home's development to obtain exceptional Ofsted standards.

Monthly team meetings and shift handovers will be held to keep all employees informed about current events involving the children and the home.

The Registered Manager and Responsible Individual will be responsible for protecting the safety of children and young people while encouraging and promoting the nine quality care standards, which include children's rights to all services relevant to their needs.

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The Registered Manager will be in charge of liaising with internal and external multidisciplinary teams, as well as commissioning authorities, to ensure that the care needs of new and existing young people are communicated and updated regularly.

The Registered Manager will ensure that all required paperwork and logs are completed and

available to Ofsted when we are registered. Daily reports, evaluations, and health and safety checks will be maintained to a high standard, and we will be in constant communication with the Placing Authorities.

The Registered Manager is responsible for maintaining a clean and safe environment and ensuring that the facility's physical status, both internally and externally, is kept in excellent condition and that any repairs or maintenance issues are addressed promptly.

The Registered Manager is responsible for ensuring that the home is run by the Children's Homes Regulation, the Children's Act 1989 and 2004, and all other applicable laws. Our Data Protection/GDPR and Confidentiality policies will be compliant.

Environmental risk assessments have been implemented to support a safe home environment. To ensure that they appropriately reflect ecological concerns, they are reviewed and updated regularly. A qualified fire assessor completes an annual fire risk assessment to ensure the house complies with fire safety legislation.

The house has a fire alarm that is monitored regularly, and all children, young people, and staff receive a fire induction upon arrival and participate in regular fire drills to promote safe evacuation of the premises in the event of a fire.

Annual legionnaires tests and PAT testing are conducted to promote water safety and electrical equipment. There is a risk assessment in place for the location.

Scheduled Criteria for the Admission of Residents to the Home

Our home is an independent children's home that provides residential care for up to Five (5) children of either gender, ages from 6 to their 18th birthday, with a primary need for behavioural and emotional support.

A matching risk assessment will be completed for each child referred to ensure they are placed appropriately. The risk assessment considers the present and referred child's behaviour, emotional state, and history to guarantee that the home can manage both children. Every child who is placed will have a risk assessment and a care plan that will be reviewed regularly.

A significant amount of detail goes into our matching process when we admit children and young people into our home. We consider the following factors so as to have a settled home within the community. When a referral arrives (usually from a local authority), the matching risk assessment typically examines:

a. Child-Specific Factors

- **Care plan & legal status** (section 20, care order, emergency etc.).
- **History of trauma or abuse**, attachment needs, therapeutic requirements.
- **Health and mental health profile** (diagnoses, CAMHS involvement, medication).
- **Education profile** (current placement, SEN statements, attendance, exclusions).
- **Behavioural history** – aggression, absconding, offending, substance misuse, sexualised

behaviour, exploitation (CCE/CSE).

- **Family contact arrangements** – frequency, supervision required.

All of the above is then considered further to the needs of the children already living in the home, such as the following.

b. Current Household Compatibility

- **Age, gender and developmental stage** compared with the referred child.
- **Presenting behaviours** (e.g. if another resident has a history of bullying).
- **Known triggers or vulnerabilities** (for example, a child with a trauma history might be destabilised by someone with violent outbursts so we would not then take in a child with violent outburst as we would want to stabilise our children in the home)
- **Cultural and religious needs** and whether they complement or clash.

c. Environmental & Staffing Factors

- **Physical environment** – bedroom availability, ability to separate if required, outdoor space.
- **Staffing ratios & skills** – therapeutic expertise, experience with specific conditions (e.g. ASD,).
- **Location-based risks** – proximity to birth family, ex-associates, or substances.
- **Transport & education links** – can staff maintain school attendance and appointments safely?

Children placed in Hazel Blossom house are likely to have emotional and/or behavioural issues. This could be due to a variety of circumstances, including children who have been neglected and families who are unable to care for them.

If the child is determined to be a good fit for the home, a planned admission will be implemented, with the Manager and a key worker visiting the child first. The child will then be invited to visit the home to meet the other children and staff and view their room.

The present child will be encouraged to express their thoughts about the potential new resident at all phases of the process. A final meeting will be convened, and a complete initial care plan, if applicable, and educational timetables, will be presented.

It is the goal that all children attend school thus they will be in school between the hours of 8.30am and 3.00pm. Every child will be given a weekly activities calendar to keep track of their activities for the week and weekend.

If a child goes missing without authorisation from home, staff will monitor the child by the organisation's missing-from-home rules and procedures, as well as local missing-from-home protocols agreed upon by the local authority and the police. Staff will take precautions to prevent young people from leaving the premises without authorisation.

Within 72 hours of a child or young person's return home, a social worker or an independent person will perform a return home interview. These interviews aim to determine why young people go missing and to develop measures to reduce or eliminate missing-from-home

episodes.

Key Worker sessions address episodes of missing from home and educate young people about the danger of leaving the house without permission and going missing.

Monitoring and Surveillance of Children and Young People.

Hazel Blossom House will be staffed at all times with at least two staff members on duty, plus the home manager from Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm. We will also have a deputy manager on site during office hours as well as to cover shifts within the home. There will be two staff members on duty between the hours of 11.00pm and 07.00am. Staff ratios guarantee that suitable staffing numbers are in place to support each child's evaluated supervision needs.

Staff will closely monitor the children's whereabouts, which will be recorded in the 'daily running log.' The whereabouts of employees will be tracked as well. Wherever the staff deems appropriate, children will be guided to outdoor activities.

All staff receive regular training as part of their continued personal growth and upskilling. This will involve safeguarding and prevention training to ensure that all staff are aware of probable indicators of radicalisation, exploitation, and abuse, as well as the National Prevent Strategy.

Zero-tolerance policy for bullying behaviour

Once the children are admitted, they will be given their Guide, including anti-bullying information. To deal with this, all staff will also receive anti-bullying training. Any complaints will be reported to the senior staff member on duty. Bullying will be addressed through discussions and the implementation of plans and agreements.

A complete written account of the concerns and actions taken must be kept in the home, and the material must be included in the relevant child's file.

Anti-Discriminatory Practice With Respect to Children and Their Families and Children's Rights.

Clearly defining the rights and duties of children/young people, staff, and family members/caregivers is essential. Hazel Blossom House's staff members respect and value each child, and they will provide services that recognise and build on the talents of children and families of different cultures, sexual orientations, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds, and abilities.

At Hazel Blossom House, all children and young people residing in the home have the following rights:

- a) To be treated equally.
- b) To be physically well cared for, including their health, clothing, food, and a warm, clean, and safe home.

- c) Following their care plan, friends and families are to be made welcome.
- d) To have their opinions encouraged and taken into account.
- e) To be encouraged to practice whichever religion they may choose.
- f) To expect choices whenever they become available.
- g) To read what we write and record about them.
- h) To receive care that is well-planned and evaluated regularly.
- i) To voice concerns if they are unhappy with the care received or offered.
- j) Request a copy of their daily care plan and review documents.

Staff will confront a child who engages in discriminatory behaviour. The staff will do so appropriately for the child and ensure they understand why they are being prejudiced and how to move forward. The staff will also model anti-discriminatory behaviour for the young people to observe and adopt.

Hazel Blossom House employs a diverse group of employees from all religions, sexual orientations, and genders to foster an environment in which young people learn to appreciate one another and develop an understanding of varied needs. The Hazel Blossom staff team ensures that young people always have the right to dignity, privacy, and humane care, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Arrangements for Supporting Cultural, Linguistic and Religious Needs of Children.

Children and young people's cultural, linguistic, and religious requirements will ideally be discovered during the planning stage. There are places of worship for individuals of all faiths and religions in the area, and children and young people will be actively supported and encouraged to maintain their religious or cultural beliefs.

Before admission, any linguistic issues will be recognised, and the home will ensure that the staff's abilities, language, and knowledge meet the needs of the child or young person. If needed, readily available information and assistance on all cultures and religions will be provided.

To foster a multicultural ethos at Hazel Blossom House, the young people will be taught to appreciate and celebrate each other's religions and cultures. Hazel Blossom House's staff has a wide range of expertise and knowledge of different cultures and religions.

Parking

There is space for 5-7 vehicles on-site at Hazel Blossom House.

These spaces will be for Management/Staff who work at Hazel Blossom House and visitors who will come to the home from time to time.

Support services will be required to use public parking on side roads if all spaces at the home

are taken.

There is ample public parking within walking distance of the home.

Addressing Concerns Raised By Consultees and the Wider Community

We fully understand and appreciate the concerns raised regarding the potential impact of a children's residential home on local crime levels. It is a common misconception that children in care contribute significantly to crime. In reality, children in care are more often victims of circumstance than perpetrators. Our primary aim is to provide them with stability, care, and a safe environment that actively reduces risks.

Following are comments / concerns raised by consultees and the local community and our responses to them.

Consultee: North Herts Environmental Protection & Housing Officer – Selection Criteria

Comment:

"I note in section Operational Management Plan it states that children placed in the facility are likely to have emotional and/or behavioural issues. It also states that risk assessments will be undertaken to assess ensure they will be placed appropriately. There is no detail outlining what would or would not be appropriate in this setting and how this would be assessed. This makes judging the impact of such a facility difficult."

Response:

Please see further details in the earlier section 'Selection Criteria for the Admission of Residents to the Home'

Consultee: Hertfordshire Constabulary - Local Crime Data

Comment:

"the nearest Hertfordshire Police Station is located in Hitchin and there will be a delay in getting a Police response from there, if there are any issues."

Response:

Please see further details in the section Police and Emergency Services below.

It is our view that the likelihood of any issues arising is very low. The available data support this reassurance:

In Putteridge Park, the annual total crime rate is 64.6 crimes per 1,000 residents, categorised as Low (3/10) compared to other areas in England and Wales.

Within the wider North Hertfordshire local authority district, the annual crime rate is 70.8 per 1,000 residents, also rated Low (3/10).

Across the local authority, most crime categories remain at low-to-moderate levels, with anti-social behaviour (15.3 per 1,000) and shoplifting (5.62 per 1,000) being the most reported, still well below national high-crime thresholds.

Full details are available in the crime data report here:
<https://crystalroof.co.uk/report/postcode/LU28LA/crime>

Impact of the Proposed Home

The proposed residential home will accommodate 4–5 children, all assessed as low to medium risk. These children will be under continuous supervision and guided within a structured environment designed to promote stability, responsibility, and positive integration into the community.

Given the local crime rate, the addition of a tiny group of supervised children will not result in any measurable or significant increase in existing crime levels. Instead, the home will work in partnership with local agencies to ensure safeguarding, engagement, and positive outcomes for the young people.

Safeguards in Place:

- 24/7 trained staff presence.
- Close liaison with local authorities, schools, and the police.
- Community engagement initiatives, including inviting residents, and police to meet the children and staff, foster understanding, trust, and positive relationships.

The data demonstrates that the area enjoys low crime levels, and the presence of a small, well-supervised children's home will not materially affect these statistics. On the contrary, by providing structured care and supervision, the house is positioned to reduce risks and contribute positively to the well-being and safety of both the young residents and the wider community.

Also, we will aim to make ourselves known to the local community by giving a helping hand in making our community safer.

All our staff are highly trained in first aid, are fire warden trained and highly and regularly trained in many other things which will foster a safer community.

We would expect and encourage neighbours to knock on our door should they need assistance.

We encourage our young people and children to participate in the local community by

introducing them to neighbours.

Our local PCSO is invited to the home to meet our staff team and our young people and to drop in regularly to build bonds with our young people and the community.

We aim to make a positive contribution to the local community rather than contributing to increased crime rates.

Our home will be somewhere where children live, and our staff work within their home rather than children living in our workplace which is very important for us to remember.

Consultee: Hertfordshire Constabulary – Security Measures

Comment:

“there are no gates onto the driveway leading to the site”

Response:

Whilst the rest of the site benefits from fencing on all boundaries, gates at the front of the property are not proposed to stay in line with the character of the rural area.

However, we are happy to increase the visibility of the entrance of the property by adding mirrors at the entrance to improve visibility for cars and pedestrians for the benefit of staff and young people.

Should it ever become necessary to install security gates, such an installation will comply with UK safety standards (e.g., EN 12453) to prevent entrapment or malfunction risks and where required, a planning application or variation will be submitted to the council for approval of gate design and positioning to ensure the gates improve safety without disrupting the character of the local area.

Public Comment - Highway Safety & Access

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

The road leading to the property is narrow, with limited visibility and no safe pedestrian footpaths. Increased vehicle movements associated with staff, visitors, and service deliveries would create a significant highway safety concern. Emergency vehicle access may also be compromised due to the restricted nature of the road layout.

Response:

We recognise that the road leading to the property is narrow. To address this, we are committed to implementing measures that minimise traffic impact:

- **Limited Vehicle Movements:** The home will accommodate up to 5 children, supported by a consistent team of staff. This means vehicle movements will be relatively low compared to other types of developments.
- **Staggered Staff Shifts:** Staff arrivals and departures will be staggered to avoid peak congestion periods.
- **Visitor Management:** Visitors will be pre-scheduled where possible, ensuring visits are spread out and manageable.
- **Service Deliveries:** Deliveries will be infrequent and coordinated at off-peak times.

Response:

Vehicle movements connected to the home will be limited and managed carefully to reduce disruption for residents and maintain safe road use. Staff shift patterns are structured to avoid unnecessary traffic build-up, and most visits are pre-arranged to ensure smoother access and planning.

Emergency Vehicle Access

The safety and well-being of children and the wider community are our priority. We will liaise with the local fire and rescue service to ensure emergency vehicles have sufficient access at all times. Emergency access has been reviewed as part of our procedures, and the road layout allows for emergency vehicles to reach the property without obstruction. Regular reviews will ensure that access remains safe and practical both for the home and the wider community.

Community Reassurance

This is not a large institutional facility, but rather a family-style home for a small number of vulnerable children who require stability, care, and a nurturing environment. We are committed to being good neighbours and ensuring that our presence has a positive impact on the local area.

We hope this response provides reassurance that the children's home will be operated safely, responsibly, and with consideration for the community.

Public Comment - Inadequate Parking Provision**Concern:**

Concerns received include the following:

A care home of this nature will require multiple staff members per shift, in addition to visitors and service vehicles. The property and surrounding area do not have the capacity to accommodate this level of parking demand without causing obstruction or overspill onto unsuitable areas.

Response:

Parking has been carefully planned so that staff and visitors use the designated spaces within the property, reducing the need to use side roads in the surrounding area. Shift planning also ensures that staff numbers on-site at one time remain manageable, with no requirement for large volumes of vehicles.

Where additional vehicles are expected, arrangements will be made in advance to avoid congestion or obstruction. This ensures that residents nearby do not experience difficulties and that the area continues to operate smoothly without additional parking pressures. This may also mean planning meetings during the school hours so as to not unnecessarily impact the area negatively.

Public Comment - Impact on Local Character, Environment and Amenity**Concern:**

Concerns received include the following:

The area is a quiet residential setting with a rich history, diverse wildlife, and a rural character. Security lighting and alterations may harm biodiversity. A change of use could bring extra traffic, noise, fencing, and surveillance. Proximity to schools may increase traffic, noise, and safety issues.

Response:

The home will remain residential in scale and feel, blending naturally with its surroundings. It is not an institution, but a family-style home designed to provide safety and stability for children in care.

Any security measures, such as lighting or boundary improvements, will be sensitively installed — just enough to protect the children, but without harming local wildlife or changing the character of the area. Gardens and outdoor spaces will be looked after in a way that supports biodiversity.

Children's routines are structured around school attendance and supervised activities, which keep noise and activity levels in line with those of a normal family household.

In terms of local schools, placements are arranged individually with the local authority, and staff support children in their school journeys. This ensures there is no added pressure on school places and that travel, and safety are managed responsibly.

Overall, the home is designed to sit quietly within the community, respecting its rural setting while offering children a stable and nurturing environment.

Public Comment - Unsuitability of Location

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

'The property is not adaptable for a care facility of this size and does not suit a tranquil rural environment. Urban sites with stronger infrastructure would be more appropriate.'

Response:

The property has been chosen because it offers the children the kind of calm and settled environment they need to thrive. It is a small home, not a large institution, and its layout lends itself well to creating a safe and homely atmosphere.

Adjustments to the property have been carefully made to meet required standards without changing its character or disrupting the rural setting. The scale of the home and the activity within it are no greater than those of an ordinary household.

While urban settings may suit some, not every child benefits from such locations. For children who have faced challenges, a quieter, more peaceful environment can provide the stability they need.

By being based here, the home provides vulnerable children with care and support in a family-style setting, while maintaining the peace and character of the community around it.

Public Comment - Health & Well-Being Impacts

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

'Stress and anxiety for elderly residents, risk of chronic health issues, harm to children's development, and reduced ability to enjoy outdoor play or focus on studies.'

Response:

The home is a small independent children's home, and the young people admitted are assessed as low to medium risk, meaning they present little to no significant behavioural issues.

Each child is supported through comprehensive care plans and individual risk assessments, ensuring their needs are managed safely and appropriately at all times.

All children will be encouraged and supported to attend school between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm, providing structure, educational focus, and stability in their daily routines.

Outdoor activities will always be supervised, with weekly activity calendars designed to promote positive recreation without disturbance to neighbours.

By maintaining a nurturing, structured environment, the home fosters emotional growth and helps limit negative behaviours that could otherwise cause concern within the community.

Public Comment - Safety & Security Fears

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

‘Potential intimidation, threatening behaviour, bullying, trespass, and crime risks due to an isolated and poorly lit location.’

Response:

The home will have 24/7 staff supervision, with no fewer than two staff members on duty overnight, supported by additional management presence during the day.

Children’s whereabouts are carefully recorded in a daily running log, so staff always know where the children are and what they are doing.

We operate a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying and antisocial behaviour. All staff are trained in anti-bullying practices, and each child is given an anti-bullying guide upon admission, so expectations are clear from the very start.

To make the environment safe, there will be appropriate lighting, secure boundaries, and regular staff patrols, which together reduce the chances of trespass or unsafe behaviour.

In addition, behavioural support plans and regular Key Worker sessions help address issues early on, preventing them from escalating.

Public Comment - Unsupervised Activities

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

‘Teenagers possibly wandering fields/woodlands unsupervised, trespass, property damage, hidden encounters, or risks of exploitation, drugs, drinking, smoking, and bullying.’

Response:

Every child will have a matching risk assessment before placement, ensuring that they are suited to the home environment and can be safely supported within the community.

Staff will closely monitor children’s whereabouts both indoors and outdoors, with clear

boundaries in place for all supervised activities. This provides reassurance not only for the children's safety but also for neighbours who may worry about unsupervised wandering.

A structured weekly activity calendar will keep young people positively engaged, which means children are supported in meaningful activities while also reducing the likelihood of any disturbance to the local area.

The home maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy for drugs, alcohol, smoking, and bullying. These expectations are reinforced through staff training and supportive guidance, helping children make safer choices and ensuring the local community is not exposed to antisocial behaviour.

In addition, preventative safeguarding training equips staff to identify risks early and act quickly against exploitation or harmful behaviour, protecting both the children in our care and the peace of the wider neighbourhood.

Public Comment - Emergency Protocols & Safety

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

'Lack of detail regarding fire drills, lockdowns, and emergency incidents; risk of road blockages and strain on local infrastructure.'

Response:

The home has clear and comprehensive emergency protocols in place, covering fire drills, lockdown procedures, and missing-from-home responses that follow both local authority and police standards.

All staff are given regular accredited training in safeguarding, emergency response, and health & safety so that they are confident and prepared to act quickly and calmly.

The layout and location of the home allow for straightforward access for emergency vehicles, helping to minimise disruption to local traffic if an incident were to occur.

Any emergency or incident will be carefully managed, logged, and reviewed to make sure lessons are learned and improvements are made where needed. This way, the home remains accountable and safe for both the children and the community.

Public Comment - Police & Emergency Services

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

‘Additional strain on already stretched resources; safeguarding, missing children, and emergency callouts.’

“Despite the sites location, the nearest Hertfordshire Police Station is located in Hitchin and there will be a delay in getting a police response from there, if there are any issues.”

Response:

Missing-from-home situations are managed under strict procedures. Staff are trained not only to act quickly if a child leaves without permission, but also to use preventative steps that reduce the chances of it happening in the first place.

If a child does go missing, a return home interview takes place within 72 hours. This helps to understand why it happened and to take steps to prevent repeat incidents.

Key work sessions also give children space to talk through risks and receive support, so they better understand the dangers and are encouraged to make safer choices long-term.

The home works closely in partnership with the police, the local authority, and healthcare professionals. This shared responsibility ensures early intervention, reducing unnecessary callouts and avoiding extra strain on emergency services.

We note the observation regarding the distance to the nearest North Hertfordshire police station. We have confirmed that in the event of an emergency, we will call 999. Calls are routed to the appropriate control room, and the nearest available police resource is dispatched, regardless of county boundary.

Our location on the Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire border does not materially affect police attendance times, as units from either Hertfordshire Constabulary or Bedfordshire Police (Luton) can respond under existing cross-border arrangements.

As an Ofsted-registered children’s home, we will maintain robust safeguarding procedures, including a clear emergency plan and regular liaison with our local Safer Neighbourhood policing team to ensure familiarity with our setting and swift access if required.

We will introduce ourselves to both the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire community policing teams closer to the opening, so they are aware of our address and can raise any special considerations if any are needed.

Public Comment - Impact on Property Values & Rural Character

Concern:

Concerns received include the following:

‘Potential reduction in property values, precedent for institutional conversions, creeping urbanisation, and loss of rural character.’

Response:

The home will continue to operate as a residential property in both scale and design, so it blends naturally with the surrounding community. It does not change the rural character of the area.

The property will be well cared for and supervised by staff, meaning it contributes positively to the local environment and helps maintain the area's appearance and reputation.

Experience from similar small-scale children's homes shows that when they are well managed, they do not reduce property values. In fact, by keeping properties occupied and maintained, they can support the overall stability of the neighbourhood.

Most importantly, the home serves an essential social role by providing a safe and structured environment for vulnerable children, while at the same time respecting and integrating into the wider community.

Concern: Equality Impact and Neglect of Disabled Residents**Response:**

We recognise the importance of ensuring that local disabled residents are not negatively affected by new developments, in line with the Equality Act 2010. The proposed children's home will not restrict access to existing community services, including Luke's Place or other local facilities, which remain fully available to all residents.

The scale of the development is small — accommodating only a few children with staff — and will not place any additional strain on local disability services or reduce accessibility for disabled residents. In fact, the home is committed to working collaboratively with nearby providers and local support groups to ensure smooth integration into the community.

It is also important to note that the property is a private dwelling being adapted for care use, not a large institutional facility. As such, its impact on infrastructure and services will be minimal and carefully managed. The presence of the home will not disadvantage disabled locals, nor will it prevent them from continuing to access the services and spaces they rely upon.

In summary, the proposal fully respects the rights of disabled residents, and far from creating neglect or discrimination, it will sit alongside existing community services without disruption.

Concern: Proximity to Schools**Response:**

We acknowledge the concern regarding the home's location near Putteridge High School and other schools in the area. However, proximity to schools should be seen as a benefit rather

than a safeguarding risk. Being close to educational facilities allows for better integration of children into mainstream education and reduces the need for long commutes, which can otherwise impact stability and wellbeing.

It is important to emphasise that children in the home will always be under structured supervision from trained staff. Strict safeguarding policies, in line with Ofsted and local authority regulations, ensure that interactions between children from the home and pupils at local schools remain safe, positive, and well-managed. The home will operate with clear codes of conduct, and staff will liaise with nearby schools to maintain open communication and address any potential issues collaboratively.

There is no evidence to suggest that the presence of a small, carefully supervised children's home creates conflict or undermines the wellbeing of other pupils. On the contrary, children's homes across the country successfully operate near schools, with strong working relationships that benefit both the children in care and the wider school community.

Therefore, rather than raising safeguarding concerns, the proximity to schools strengthens opportunities for education, inclusion, and positive development while being fully managed through professional oversight.

Concern: Design & Compliance Issues

Response:

We appreciate the opportunity to clarify the points raised regarding design and compliance.

1. Child Numbers (4 vs 5 beds):

The application is that the home will provide accommodation for a maximum of 4 - 5 children. This is consistent with planning documentation and will be regulated by Ofsted, which sets strict limits on occupancy to ensure safety and quality of care. There is no intention to exceed this number, and the home will remain compliant with its approved capacity.

2. Bathroom Facilities:

Ofsted does not prescribe specific ratios for bathroom or bedroom facilities in children's homes. Nevertheless, additional adaptations and upgrades have been incorporated into the design to ensure that the facilities are modern, hygienic, and fully adequate for the number of children who will be placed in the home.

3. Therapy/Confidential Care Space:

While the home is not a clinical or therapeutic centre, it will provide private, quiet rooms that can be used for confidential discussions, one-to-one support, or therapeutic sessions delivered by external professionals. These arrangements fully comply with Ofsted's expectations for children's homes and are proportionate to the scale of the development.

4. Compliance with Ofsted/CQC Standards:

Children's homes are regulated exclusively by Ofsted, not the CQC, and must meet strict national minimum standards before being registered and permitted to operate. This includes checks on design, safeguarding, staffing, and facilities. The home will undergo rigorous inspection and will not be allowed to admit children until full compliance is confirmed.

In summary, the design is proportionate, compliant, and carefully planned to ensure the highest standards of care and regulatory adherence.