

Here are answers to some of the operational questions that the council and residents have asked and to help understanding on how the home would operate.

There is no information about the likely age range (for instance, is it going to be children under 18 or young people transitioning into adulthood?), special needs and supervision or risk requirements of residents;-

The home will be registered with Ofsted, as are all Hertfordshire County Council children's homes, for children aged 7 to 18 years. However, it is anticipated that this particular home will primarily support young people aged 15 to 18 years. Where appropriate, a young person may remain in the home for a short period after their 18th birthday to support a planned transition.

The home will be staffed by three members of staff during the day and two staff overnight, consisting of one waking night member of staff and one sleep-in member of staff. The home will also be overseen by a Registered Manager.

The service is intended to support children and young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing needs. Before any child is admitted, professionals will undertake detailed assessments to ensure the home can meet their needs. Comprehensive matching and location risk assessments will also be completed to ensure the placement is suitable, both for the young person and the local community setting.

There is no information on whether some residents may require enhanced safeguarding, security or intensive supervision arrangements;

The typical staffing model will be three staff supporting up to four children, providing a high level of supervision and support.

There may occasionally be circumstances where a child requires enhanced support, including one-to-one staffing, based on their assessed needs. All children will have an individual care plan, support plan and risk assessment that are reviewed and updated regularly. These documents identify the level of support required, any risks that need to be managed, and the outcomes staff and young people are working towards.

There is insufficient information about how the home would be supervised and managed across two separate buildings (especially with the annexe having an extra resident bedroom);

The main house is intended to accommodate up to four children and will operate as the primary residential setting.

Should the annexe be used, additional staffing resources would be deployed to ensure appropriate supervision is maintained across both buildings. In these circumstances, it is anticipated that the main house would accommodate up to three children supported by two members of staff, while the annexe would accommodate one child supported by up to, two members of staff.

This arrangement would ensure continued safeguarding, supervision and effective support for all young people.

There is ambiguity regarding the maximum number of residents and the intended role of the proposed annexe;

The home's primary purpose is to accommodate and care for up to four children and that would be the general expectation. Whilst the home will be registered with Ofsted for a maximum of five children, comprising four bedrooms within the main house and one bedroom within the annexe, the fifth bedroom would generally be used only in exceptional circumstances, or to support planned transitions into or out of the home.

There is limited information regarding staffing, parking, traffic generation and day-to-day operations, including whether CCTV is needed;-

As is common practice in children's homes and many residential properties, CCTV may be installed at the front and rear of the property to support safeguarding and security.

It is anticipated that approximately four to five staff vehicles will require parking on a typical day. Due to staff shift handovers, there may be a temporary increase in vehicle numbers for around one hour during changeover periods.

The number of visitors to the home is generally limited. Statutory visits include a monthly visit by each child's social worker and a monthly visit by an Independent Reviewing Officer. These visits are planned and form part of the routine oversight arrangements for children living in care.

Overall, the home will provide the necessary staffing, safeguarding and management arrangements to provide a safe, stable and supportive environment for the young people living there, and allow them to thrive in their environment.