

SDP Architecture

Received by Ashfield District Council

The Planning Department
Ashfield District Council
Council Offices
Urban Road
Kirkby in Ashfield
NG17 8ZA

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F.A.O. Lara Murray

RE: V/2026/0009 – Land between 5-5A Orchard Rd, Kirkby in Ashfield

Four Oaks Care Ltd – Management and Operational Oversight

The children's home will comply with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, adhere to Quality Standards, and follow local safeguarding procedures. The Registered Manager is responsible for the safe running of the facility, including staffing, supervision, training, safeguarding, risk management, and collaborating with external agencies like the Police, Local Authority, and other safeguarding partners. Staff will be available around the clock, always trained in areas such as safeguarding and child exploitation, prevention and response for missing children, trauma-informed care, positive behavioural support, de-escalation, and conflict resolution. A clear management structure ensures accountability, oversight, and swift decision-making.

Prevention of Unauthorised Absence and Missing from Care Incidents

Acknowledging concerns from law enforcement about vulnerable young people leaving without permission, Four Oaks Care prioritise safeguarding and risk reduction.

Each child receives an individualised risk assessment, behaviour support plan, and Placement Plan that identifies risks, vulnerabilities, triggers, and protective strategies.

Building positive relationships forms the foundation for trust and voluntary cooperation, avoiding restrictive practices. Clear expectations for safety and boundaries are explained in age-appropriate, trauma-informed ways, supported by early intervention measures like increased supervision during high-risk times, personalised one-to-one support, diversionary activities, and structured routines. Movement restrictions do not involve locking doors, but staff monitor and respond quickly to any concerns.

Missing From Care Procedures and Police Liaison

If a young person goes missing or is absent without authorisation, staff will follow established protocols aligned with Police and Local Authority procedures, including the Philomena protocols. Immediate risk assessments are conducted, and police notified promptly when necessary. All incidents are logged, reviewed, and analysed for patterns or emerging risks. Return home interviews are sought to inform updates on risk management strategies. The Registered Manager maintains ongoing communication with local policing teams, shares relevant safeguarding information as appropriate, participates in multi-agency meetings, reviews recurring incidents collaboratively, and receives regular visits from PCSOs.

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Mitigating Risks of Criminal and Sexual Exploitation

Recognising vulnerabilities to county lines drug trafficking and sexual exploitation especially for children who go missing. Four Oaks Care ensure all staff receive training in identifying signs of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), county lines involvement, grooming, coercion, modern slavery, and substance abuse.

Children receive education on personal safety, exploitation, healthy relationships, and online/mobile phone safety through key work sessions. Where risks are identified, supervised contact is provided. Any suspicions regarding exploitation are escalated immediately through safeguarding procedures and shared with the Police and Local Authority. Four Oaks Care actively collaborates with multi-agency safeguarding partners for coordinated responses and effective protection planning.

Premises Management and Community Impact

Four Oaks Care aim to be a positive presence in the local community. Efforts to manage neighbourhood impact include clear house rules covering noise levels, visitors, and respectful behaviour inside and outside the property. Staff supervise young people as needed, particularly in the evenings, and respond swiftly to incidents affecting neighbours. A named manager is always available to address concerns from residents or the Police.

Conflict Resolution and Behaviour Management

Conflicts within the home or with the wider community are handled using therapeutic, trauma-informed behaviour support, de-escalation techniques, restorative approaches, and, only when absolutely necessary, physical intervention. Physical intervention is strictly limited to last-resort situations, in accordance with legislation and training, and never used for control or punishment.

Continuous Review and Partnership Working

The management plan undergoes regular review and updates based on incidents and emerging risks, incorporating feedback from Police, crime statistics, safeguarding reviews, and quality assurance processes. Four Oaks Care Ltd remains committed to transparent and proactive partnerships with the Police to safeguard children and reduce risks for both young people and the wider community.

Regards

Duncan Scott

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