



Wednesday, 15 April 2026

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LOCAL NEED

Proposed Children's Residential Home – 61 Botwell Lane, Hayes UB3 2AD

Prepared by Blue Hue Consulting Ltd on behalf of Lifepaths Care Ltd (the Applicant)

1. Introduction and Engagement with the Local Authority

Blue Hue Consulting Ltd is a specialist children's social care consultancy acting on behalf of its client, Lifepaths Care Ltd, the applicant for the proposed children's residential home at 61 Botwell Lane, Hayes UB3 2AD, within the London Borough of Hillingdon.

As part of the pre-application due diligence process, Blue Hue Consulting Ltd has undertaken a review of the London Borough of Hillingdon's published strategic documents to establish the level of need for children's residential provision within the borough.

In particular, reliance has been placed upon:

- Hillingdon's Care Strategy 2025–2030
- Local data relating to cared for children and care experienced young people

The Council's published strategy confirms its ongoing commitment to improving outcomes for children in care, including increasing access to stable, local and high-quality residential provision.

The strategy makes clear that, whilst fostering remains the preferred placement type, residential provision continues to play a critical role for children and young people whose needs cannot be met in foster care settings.

This provides clear policy-level confirmation that there remains an ongoing requirement for appropriate residential provision within Hillingdon.

2. Evidence of Local Demand and Sufficiency Needs

A detailed review of Hillingdon's Care Strategy 2025–2030 confirms a clear and evidenced demand for additional residential provision.

The Council's own data identifies:

- 312 cared for children within the borough



- 602 care experienced young people (aged 18–25)
- Only 10.3% of children placed in residential homes
- A significant proportion of children requiring specialist and stable placements

In addition, the strategy highlights:

- A need to minimise placement instability and breakdowns
- The importance of local placements to maintain community, education and family links
- A commitment to ensuring children have safe, stable and nurturing homes
- A strategic ambition to increase local provision and reduce reliance on external placements

The Council further recognises that many children entering care present with:

- Trauma and adverse childhood experiences
- Emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Mental health needs
- Vulnerability to exploitation and safeguarding risks

These factors collectively demonstrate:

- A clear pressure on existing provision
- A growing cohort of children requiring specialist residential care
- A policy-driven need for small, high-quality local homes

3. Specific Commissioning Priorities Identified by the Council

Through its Care Strategy, the London Borough of Hillingdon has clearly articulated the type of provision it seeks to develop.

The Council's priorities include:

- Provision of safe, stable and nurturing homes for children in care
- A focus on relationship-based and trauma-informed care models
- Delivery of holistic, multi-agency support including health, education and wellbeing
- Ensuring children experience continuity, stability and a sense of belonging
- Supporting positive transitions into adulthood

The strategy further emphasises:

- The importance of small, family-style environments
- The need to reduce disruption and multiple placements
- The requirement for local, community-based provision



- A commitment to high-quality, regulated services

In particular, the Council’s approach is underpinned by the principle:

“Would this be good enough for my child?”

This clearly establishes a preference for high-quality, domestic-scale residential homes, rather than institutional settings.

4. Alignment of the Proposed Development with Identified Local Need

The proposed development at 61 Botwell Lane has been specifically designed to align directly with Hillingdon’s identified sufficiency gaps and commissioning priorities.

The proposed service model will provide:

- A small-scale residential home accommodating up to 3 children
- A family-style, domestic environment within an established residential area
- A trauma-informed and therapeutically supported care model

The service will be capable of supporting children with:

- Emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Trauma-related needs
- Mental health challenges
- Complex safeguarding profiles

This model directly reflects the Council’s strategic priorities, including:

- Delivering stable, nurturing homes
- Supporting relationship-based care
- Promoting continuity and long-term stability
- Enabling children to remain within their local community and support networks

The scale and nature of the proposal ensures that it operates in a manner consistent with a typical family home, while delivering enhanced care support.

5. Workforce Capability and Care Model



The proposed provision will be supported by a structured and appropriately qualified staffing model, ensuring safe and effective delivery of care.

As outlined within the Management Plan:

- A staffing ratio of 1:1 care support will be provided
- Typically:
 - 2 care staff on shift
 - 1 registered manager overseeing the service
- Staff will operate on a structured rota with minimal daily shift changes
- 24-hour supervision will be maintained

The service will adopt a therapeutic, trauma-informed approach, focused on:

- Building positive relationships
- Supporting emotional development
- Promoting education and independence
- Encouraging positive behaviour and life skills

Children will be supported through:

- Structured routines
- Access to education (including online and specialist provision where required)
- Multi-agency input (social workers, health professionals, etc.)
- Carefully managed and pre-arranged visits

This model ensures that:

- The home operates in a controlled and low-impact manner
- External interactions are planned and proportionate
- The overall function remains aligned with a residential dwelling in character

6. Conclusion

Based on:

- The London Borough of Hillingdon's Care Strategy 2025–2030
- The Council's identified need for stable, local residential placements
- The increasing complexity of needs among children in care

there is clear, robust and evidenced local need for additional children's residential provision within the borough.



The proposed development at 61 Botwell Lane, Hayes directly responds to the Council's identified:

- Sufficiency pressures
- Need for smaller, high-quality homes
- Requirement for trauma-informed care
- Priority for local placements

The proposal represents an appropriate, necessary and policy-aligned development which will support the Council in fulfilling its statutory duties and improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

Prepared by:

Engagement and Liaison Team
Blue Hue Consulting Ltd
(On behalf of Lifepaths Care Ltd)