



Introduction

Our foremost objective at Beechwood is to provide a warm, nurturing and supportive environment where Looked After Children and young people can thrive and grow. Beechwood is a 'home away from home' where children are supported by highly dedicated, experienced, and trained staff.

Background

Beechwood is a provision for 3 children with low to medium level difficulties. Children may have mild Learning difficulties such as high functioning autism / Aspergers. The Home will be regulated by Ofsted.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that staff and children understand their obligations when living together and employ appropriate practice to promote an environment conducive to unity and positive regard in relation to the residents both in and around the Home. Although it is not anticipated that three children with their carers will generate any more noise than any other family home, we have primary responsibility to ensure appropriate measures to limit noise disturbance and counter if this does occur.

This plan should be read in conjunction with our Good Neighbour Policy, Management statement for the control of noise, and our Complaints Policy.

Risks

- Increased noise in immediate community
- Disruption to others living in the home, neighbours and community.

The potential sources of noise are:

- Children and staff utilizing the outdoor garden area.
- Occasional entertaining events such as birthdays.
- Vehicle movements and voices in the outdoor parking area.
- Other activities in or around the building.

Control measures

We will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented and reviewed.
- Ensure that this policy forms part of staff induction.
- Not admit more than 3 children to the home at any one time.



- Ensure staff are fully aware of the need to control excessively noisy behavior to maintain compliance with the District Plan noise limits.
- Make the Noise Control Plan and Good Neighbor Policy, Management statement for the control of noise, and our Complaints Policy available to neighbors, clarifying our responsibilities to all.
- Provide an email address and phone number to neighbors so that they can raise any concerns or complaints at the earliest opportunity. We will attempt to address these as quickly as possible in line with policies and procedures. All complaints and/or comments will be taken with serious regard.
- Ensure the home's manager regularly speaks and liaises with neighbors and the local community to encourage positive relationships, thereby mitigating any barriers or potential for misunderstandings.
- Advise any visitors to the home of expectations within this plan.
- Ensure double glazing remains fitted to the windows, doors and relative areas.
- We are prudent to ensure appropriate placements conducive to positive integration within the local community.
This will be facilitated through our Matching Criteria and Impact Risk Assessments. We will ensure multi-agency engagement to secure all relevant information to guide the decision process. We will carefully consider children's known behaviours before offering them a home with us. Children who are subject to Antisocial Behaviour Orders will not be accommodated.
- Ensure that prior to placement consideration, requests will be made for any existing Local Authority Care Plans, Education and Health Care Plans, Psychological Assessments, risk assessments and Behaviour Management Plans.
- Due diligence to gather supporting information from previous carers/homes to enable a comprehensive profile.
- We will not accommodate emergency admissions and always seek to meet with the child or Young Person before admission. This lends to a positive transition into the Home with the child/young person's "buy-in".
- On a child's admission to the home, undertake a 72-hour planning meeting with the allocated social worker to underpin the transition and make any necessary adjustments to secure the transition.
- Ensure the home is adequately staffed to meet the needs of the children.
- Ensure the staff's skills will be carefully matched to the child's presenting needs and any additional training will be prearranged or quickly sourced.
- Ensure shift changes are conducted when car movements can be reasonably expected in a residential area. 8:00/8:30 (a.m. & p.m.)
- Visitors will be required to attend by scheduled appointments only and restricted to specific hours unless special circumstances exist, e.g. a



birthday celebration. Visiting hours therefore will be between the hours of 9:00 until 18:00.

- Conduct professional meetings and staff training/meetings off site in local office space or conference rooms.

Staff will:

- Ensure they run Beechwood like 'any normal family home' in their capacity as 'corporate parents' and will encourage the children to act as a 'responsible citizen'. This will include helping children to be considerate of our neighbours just as they would in a socially responsible family home.
- All children will have a Behaviour and Risk management plan which will assess and mitigate risks and outline the strategies that staff will use to manage children's behaviours. These will be regularly reviewed and updated. This will minimise instances where potential noise may impact upon other children, staff and neighbouring properties.
- Ensure they actively keep noise to a minimum.
- Be a good role model to children also demonstrating appropriate communication, volumes and tones.
- Staff will be cognisant of their own actions and conduct themselves appropriately also ensuring their activity outdoors remains discreet and at appropriate levels. They will ensure that when they arrive and leave the home that they keep the noise levels to a minimum. For example, keeping car stereos etc to an acceptable level.
- Ensure loud music is not played at any time of the day or night.
- Help children to understand and follow the home's rules in relation to being considerate of our neighbours with regard to noise. Children may have differing levels of understanding. The rules will be transcribed using children's preferred communication aids where needed.
- Children will be encouraged to enjoy the garden; however, staff will speak to children to help ensure no excessive noise takes place.
- Where excessive noise does occur, children and any activities being undertaken will be moved inside to address this.
- There will be no use of percussive, hard wheeled and other potentially noisy toys in the outdoor play area.
- With windows open for ventilation, there will be sufficient distance separation and screening attenuation to control noise from within the building, but staff may consider closing some or all windows during some activities to minimize boundary noise levels.
- Children will not be permitted to gather at the front of the Home. If friendships are developed with children in the community, they will be encouraged



to use the park or other social areas, or, if appropriate, invite them into the home.

- Children can reasonably use the outdoor space but after 20:00 hours they will be asked to reduce the level of noise, so it is not intrusive upon local residents.
- The level of noise is to be kept to a level where it cannot be heard past the boundary of the premises between the hours of 8pm – 8am where possible.

In the event of a concern or complaint, then the procedure for managing this is contained within the Complaints Policy.

It may be prudent to seek a quicker resolution than the formal complaints procedure will deliver. In this case and at the manager's discretion, upon the concern or complaint being received, the manager may take immediate action to resolve the situation. This action will be in addition to and not substitute for the formal process. Anyone raising a complaint will be kept up to date with the process.

The Complaints Policy gives details of further contacts if a neighbour, member of the public or anyone concerned is dissatisfied with the resolution or outcome of a noise complaint.