



Care2Rise - Noise Management Plan for Wimborne Children's Home

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Noise Management Plan is to minimize noise disturbances within and around the children's home while fostering a calm, nurturing, and supportive environment for the children, staff, and surrounding community.

2. Objectives

- Ensure that noise levels are maintained at acceptable levels for residents, staff, and neighbours.
- Promote practices and activities that reduce noise generation.
- Comply with local noise regulations and address noise complaints promptly and effectively.

3. Scope

This plan applies to all activities and operations conducted on the premises, including day-to-day activities, scheduled events, and facility maintenance.

3.1 Types of care provided by Care2Rise - Care & Admissions Process:

The home will communicate with local authorities that they will not take children with severe challenging behaviour. Due to the location of the home, it is not appropriate to provide care to children who will be known to create behaviour that will cause an excess of disruption to the surrounding area i.e., excess noise. The home will be registered for 4 children aged 8-17 who suffer from **Social, Emotional and Behavioural issues**. What this means is that the matching of children to the area is through the regulation of Ofsted, with legally binding agreements with Ofsted that the level of care provided will remain consistent and accurate to what information has been submitted to the regulator (Ofsted). Ofsted will regulate the home through rigorous inspections with the oversight of Regulation 44 Inspectors who attend the home once a month. These Regulation 44 Inspectors are legally obligated to report any concerns directly to Ofsted.

Before a child is placed in the home, the **Admissions Policy** will be followed to allow a detailed, careful and appropriate transition. This will involve consulting with the homes **Location Risk Assessment** to ensure the child's referral paperwork matches their suitability of the area i.e., if a young person is known to create excessive noise, has severe challenging behaviour, then they will not be placed in accordance with our regulated policies and procedures. This information is entered onto an **Impact Risk Assessment**. This document's function is exactly what it is called, it measures the *impact* on and of the child regarding the home, neighbourhood, and surrounding area. When the first child has settled into placement (this is known by a comprehensive online cloud system, where

all factors are considered and calculated) in order to place a second child in the home. The same process is followed however, the home considers how the second child placed will also *impact* on the current child. The **Impact Risk Assessment** is utilised significantly with matching the behaviour, background, emotional impact etc.

Before a child is placed, a visit by the Registered Manager and the child's Keyworker will take place. This is to ascertain how the child behaves in their current environment and how they react to us. Not all residential homes complete this procedure and will often take emergency placements of children i.e., the same day they receive the information on the child the child moves into the home. Care2Rise will **NOT** take emergency placements, this is detailed in our **Statement of Purpose**. This document informs all stakeholders what we deliver in the home i.e., the training of adults, how we achieve successes for the children etc. It is like a manual for people who are not connected to the home to understand what we do and how we do it. We do not believe a child can be appropriately placed in a home with as short notice as an hour before they move in. We believe in planned, detailed and caring transitions so the young people are invested in the home even before arriving. Not only does the Manager and Keyworker visit the child who is being considered to move into the home, but the child will come for tea, explore the local area, have an overnight stay, if possible, go on an activity with the adults, adults visit where they are currently and spend time with them.

Within the structure, routine and boundaries of the home lies a detailed care plan for each child, which includes a structured and child centred activity plan. This is created with the children each week, so they know where they are going, albeit education or time away from the home on an activity. This structure allows all participants in the home to remain consistent and plan each journey to and from the property, reducing the likelihood of unnecessary visits/trips out. What equally benefits the children is that naturally, planning of any sort supports a reduce in anxiety. As is common with traumatised children, prior to placement in the home, they have only known chaos and uncertainty. Once they experience stability and predictiveness in their lives, this has a calming and reductive effect on their emotions reducing the likelihood of behaviour that may challenge i.e., excess noise, outbursts of anger etc. This process begins *before* they come to live in the home, through our admissions process.

Staff on shift will monitor the activities of young people at home and ensure that young people are mindful of being considerate of neighbours and respectful as part of living in the local area.

Staff when doing activities with the young people in the garden in during the day will be supervised and monitored. All young people will have a weekly timetable and routines to get up go to school, make meals, take part in activities and attend appointments. Every young person will have a planned day which staff will monitor and review so that the young people are settled and live like a family home structure. Safety and welfare of each young person is of paramount importance, staff do observations and record each young person's movements on daily recorded logs.

4. Noise Management Strategies

4.1 Internal Noise Control

1. Quiet Hours Policy

- Quiet hours will be enforced from [**Specify Time, e.g., 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM**], during which noise levels will be kept to a minimum.
- During these hours, residents and staff should:
 - Lower the volume of conversations, music, and televisions.

- Avoid running, loud play, or other potentially disruptive activities.
- 2. **Activity Zoning**
 - Allocate specific areas for louder activities, such as recreational play, and quieter zones for study, relaxation, or rest.
 - Designate soundproofed spaces for high-energy activities like music or exercise.
- 3. **Staff Training**
 - Train staff on noise management practices, including modelling appropriate noise levels and redirecting loud behaviours when necessary.
- 4. **Use of Noise-Reducing Furnishings**
 - Install soft furnishings (e.g., rugs, curtains, and padded furniture) to absorb sound in common areas.
 - Ensure doors are properly fitted with rubber seals to reduce sound transmission.

4.2 External Noise Control

1. **Outdoor Play and Activities**
 - Schedule outdoor activities during appropriate hours, avoiding early mornings and late evenings.
 - Limit the number of children participating in outdoor activities at one time to control noise levels.
2. **Landscaping and Boundaries**
 - Install sound barriers such as hedges, fences, or walls to reduce noise escape from the premises.
3. **Equipment Usage**
 - Restrict the use of loud equipment (e.g., lawnmowers or leaf blowers) to designated hours, avoiding early mornings or late evenings.
4. **Staff Parking at front of Home**
 - Staff will be mindful of parking at front of home, not to use horn or keep engine running for a long period of time. Staff will park respectfully and handovers at early mornings and late evening will be done quickly to avoid noise to neighbours or any inconvenience to others.

4.3 Noise Complaint Management

1. **Complaint Procedure**
 - Establish a clear procedure for receiving, logging, and addressing noise complaints from neighbours or within the home.
 - Assign a designated staff member to handle complaints and respond promptly.
2. **Communication with Neighbours**
 - Maintain open communication with neighbours regarding scheduled activities that may generate noise (e.g., events or maintenance work).
 - Provide contact information for queries or concerns.
3. **Monitoring and Record-Keeping**
 - Keep a record of noise complaints and actions taken to address them. Use this data to identify recurring issues and improve practices.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Regular Noise Assessments

- Conduct routine checks to identify areas or activities generating excessive noise.
- Use tools such as noise meters if needed to measure decibel levels.

2. Feedback Mechanism

- Gather feedback from residents, staff, and neighbours to evaluate the effectiveness of noise management strategies.

3. Plan Review

- Review this Noise Management Plan annually or as required to ensure its continued effectiveness. Update it based on feedback and any changes in local noise regulations.

6. Emergency Provisions

In cases of emergency (e.g., fire alarms or medical situations), noise levels may temporarily exceed normal limits to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all residents.

7. Compliance and Accountability

- All staff and residents are responsible for adhering to this Noise Management Plan.
- Supervisors and managers will oversee compliance and provide guidance when necessary.

8. Conclusion

This Noise Management Plan is designed to balance the needs of children, staff, and the surrounding community. By fostering a respectful and considerate environment, we aim to create a space where children can thrive in a calm and supportive atmosphere.