



## Statement of Purpose And Function



Royal Oak House – URN SC023740

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## ***Foreword***

This Statement of Purpose is intended to provide the information required by Regulation 16 of The Children's Homes Regulations 2015.

We have endeavoured to make this document as clear and understandable as possible and would be pleased to provide any further information or additional explanation that may be required regarding any aspect of the services we provide.

We are able to provide alternative methods of communication and/or translation in cases where English is not the preferred language, regardless of age or disability.

## ***The Quality and Purpose of Care ...***

### ***1. A statement of the range of needs of the children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation.***

Royal Oak House is registered to accommodate three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Owing to the high level and vast range of training that the adults receive, the home is able to cater for children with a diverse range of needs and difficulties. This includes medical needs such as epilepsy, ADHD and autism, as well as emotional difficulties which the adults support the children with alongside a number of therapists who work in tandem with the home when it is identified that the children need this input.

As well as this, the home also has positive links to education, both within Ethelbert Children's Services primary and secondary schools. The home and school adults communicate well with each other on a daily basis to support the education of the children allowing and assisting them to meet their full potential.

The home is situated in a largely residential village and is indistinguishable from other family homes and provides a homely environment which is both warm and friendly ensuring that the young people feel safe and secure.

We offer personalised care planning and identify clear strategies of support in meeting their complex needs.

The young people receive substantial support to prepare them for a successful transition into their adult life and this support is adapted to meet individual needs to enable each young person to take some responsibility and informed decisions for example using public transport or arranging routine health appointments.

### ***2. Details of the home's ethos, the outcomes that the home seeks to achieve and its approach to achieving them.***

At Royal Oak, the young people benefit from excellent levels of care and support from a dedicated team of adults. The adults understand the importance of providing the children with a secure base from which they can build some positive relationships and use these to go forward and succeed in the future. It is evident that the supportive and warm relationships that exist between the young people and the adult team promote a nurturing environment that enhances the young person's self-esteem and enables them to grow in confidence and clearly demonstrates that they are valued and cared for.

The adult team understand the importance of encouraging the young people to recognise when they need support to reflect on any difficulties that they may have, and that it is this reflection that will enable the children to develop and make decisions for themselves as they mature. The adult

team have a good understanding that any behaviour that the young people display is a form of communication and recognise that it invariably reflects their thoughts, feelings and needs. Within the home it is important that the children are able to be themselves and there is a strong emphasis on inclusion and the young people are routinely involved in contributing to day to day decisions about their progress, which promotes a positive outlook and experience of being looked after and cared for which has often been missing from their past.

### ***3. A description of the accommodation offered by the home, including:***

- a) how accommodation has been adapted to the needs of children;**
- b) the age range, number and sex of children for whom it is intended that accommodation is to be provided; and**
- c) the type of accommodation, including sleeping accommodation.**

- a) The home is a large, end of terraced home which has been adapted to meet all health and safety and fire safety requirements. It is important that the home does not stand out as a children's home in the area and therefore adopts the general aesthetics of the rest of the houses in the road. The home allows for the children to be able to have time to themselves, or 1:1 time with adults, as well as providing space for more communal activities.
- b) Royal Oak House is registered for up to three children of either gender, although currently operating as an all boy's home. The normal admission age is between 8 and 16 years although children outside of this range may be considered subject to matching considerations and impact assessment with other children in placement. A child may be placed in Royal Oak House on an interim basis. Before agreeing to the placement, the Registered Manager, or in their absence the Area Manager would complete a compatibility assessment and risk assessment forms. The admission process is, to the home, the exact same as a permanent placement with an admission's meeting held outlining the aims of the placement. The duration of the placement needs to be clearly outlined with a date confirmed as to when the placement will end and the child will leave the home.
- c) The home has a communal lounge, a separate kitchen and dining room and a large games room. There is a choice of using a shower room or a separate bathroom and two toilets for the children to use. Each child has their own bedroom and where possible prior to being placed the children's choice of decoration is discussed and the room is made ready for them as they wish. If this is not possible the children will be asked about their preferences when they arrive and their choices taken into account. Each bedroom is

furnished to a good standard with single bed, chest of drawers, bedside cabinet and wardrobe, there is also a television in each child's room. As each child has their own room, the children are encouraged to maintain this at a good level and understand that all bedrooms are private and personal and that visits to others bedrooms are not permitted. The children are offered the opportunity to have their own bedroom keys which also enables them to keep their own space secure and private. This is important as quite often in the past children will not have been provided with a space of their own – the adults in the home fully understand and respect the importance and value of this to the young person. To this end the adults in the home will not enter the children's bedrooms without prior permission unless there are safeguarding concerns.

d)

The children are also encouraged to have input into the decoration of the rest of the home, and this is completed with their tastes in mind.

The normal ratio of adults to children is 2:3 dependant on the needs of the children currently living there. This staffing ratio is provided both during the day and overnight – two sleep in rooms are provided for to accommodate the adults staying. There is an alarm system in place which the adults utilise once they have settled at night and they are alerted should any of the children need any support through the evening. The adults will always respond to this and the children understand that this will happen.

In the lounge the children are provided with a television which also provides access to additional film apps such as Netflix, good quality soft furnishings and a homely environment. The kitchen / dining room has a table for everyone to have a meal together. The kitchen is well equipped with modern cooking appliances and the children are able and encouraged as part of their development assist in the making of their own meals if they choose.

The games room is a place where the children can just play games. This is equipped with a TV and house console as well as a large number of games and puzzles and the children are continuously engaging in discussion around new games and toys that they would like in the room – this room is very much the centre of the home at times of play.

There has been a new addition to the home in the form of a meeting room. This is equipped with a PC with internet connection to provide a private space for the children to have necessary meetings at home. It also provides a private place for the children to be able to have telephone contact with their family and has been suitably furnished with comfortable sofas and soft furnishings in an effort to create a space for contact to take place in the home if required.

#### ***4. A description of the location of the home.***

Royal Oak House is situated close to the centre of Westgate-On-Sea on the North Kent Coast. Nearby there are local shops, train station and Westgate beach. The village is relatively quiet and is close to several picturesque beaches and several other family attractions.

A location review is undertaken for the home and is regularly reviewed and updated according to latest information and changes. This report is available on request.

## ***5. The arrangements for supporting the cultural, linguistic and religious needs of children.***

Children living within the house will come from a variety of differing cultural backgrounds and having differing spiritual and religious needs. The home will endeavour to meet these varying needs by providing positive role modelling and experiences. This can be as simple as considered menus, activities and visiting home areas. The adult group will continue to explore all avenues to ensure these needs are fully met and developed. It is important that the children maintain a sense of where they are from in continuing to promote and develop a positive identity. An integral part of this support may come from the children's families and where this is possible, the children will be encouraged to maintain positive relationships with their family and also where possible, former friends from their home locations. All adults receive training around diversity and equality and understand that the needs of all children are paramount and will be at the forefront of all we do in the home. Within the area there is the opportunity for all religious practice, and if it is the wish of the children then they will be supported to attend any service they wish to. In the event of any religious uncertainty, additional research would be undertaken taken to ensure every need was met.

## ***6. Details of who to contact if a person has a complaint about the home and how that person can access the home's complaints policy.***

It has to be acknowledged that within the home there will, at times, be occasions when a child or other person may wish to make a complaint.

We will always attempt to resolve complaints made by children at an informal stage. The staff on duty will try and address the complaint and resolve this to a satisfactory level. If achieved this will be documented and recorded within the Child's Daily Record Book.

However, it may be that the complaint is more serious, cannot be resolved at this stage or the child wishes to make this more formal. The home does have a formal Complaints Log. This log identifies the complaint, the action taken to resolve, the feedback to the child and their views around this.

If after this stage, they remain unhappy and dissatisfied with the outcome, the Placing Authority and Social Worker are informed and made aware of the complaint and the action at this time to try and address and resolve this. Copies of the Placing Authority Complaints Procedures are held within the home for the children placed and they have access to them. In relation to specific

complaints about areas of our service, issues outside of the home or other operational matters the policy sets out a formalised procedure which will be followed. All complaints will be logged and recorded within the home.

The house is situated in a residential street. It may be that at times, the local neighbours may be unhappy and wish to complain about the operational running of the home or have some concerns as to the behaviour of some of the children. The home is aware that it is important for the children and the service to have a positive community presence and will try to address and resolve complaints immediately. However, this may not be possible and as a wider organisation, Ethelbert Children's Services has a designated Community Liaison Officer. Her role is to try and resolve significant issues in the local area regarding the home and/or children placed. The immediate neighbours are given contact details, should any issues arise, of both the Registered Manager and Community Liaison Officer and action will be taken to try and resolve the complaint in a timely fashion so that there is no negativity or stigma associated to the children living within the home.

The home's complaints policy can be requested via the Manager of the home or through our head office on 01843 823762 / [headoffice@ethelbert.net](mailto:headoffice@ethelbert.net)

## ***7. Details of how a person, body or organisation involved in the care or protection of a child can access the home's child protection policies or the behaviour management policy.***

The home is within the larger Ethelbert Children's Services Residential Services and has detailed policies for 'Safeguarding Children', 'Preventing Bullying' and for 'Children who go 'missing''. Ethelbert Children's Services has an appointed Safeguarding Co-ordinator who oversees the children's safety within the home. Gordon Shaw is the company's designated Safeguarding Co-ordinator and has a wealth of experience having worked in residential childcare since 1994. Gordon holds an MA in Advanced Child Protection to accompany a Diploma Level 3 in childcare, a graduate certificate in therapeutic childcare, a NVQ Registered Managers Award, and an NVQ Level 5 in Operational Management. He joined Ethelbert Children's Services in 2006 as an Area Manager supporting the Registered Managers in developing and maintaining the services provided at their respective homes. Alongside this he also has an oversight of the Education provision within Ethelbert Children's Services and this dual management role allows for a close working relationship between the school and residential services.

The home's Safeguarding Policy is in line with the Kent Safeguarding Children's Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) procedures and an up-to-date copy of this is located in the home. The Manager of the home will discuss any safeguarding concerns with the Child Protection Co-ordinator and will seek his advice and guidance as requested. All staff working in the home are provided with safeguarding training with an annual refresher undertaken, the training also includes training in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Gang Affiliation, Radicalisation and Drug and Substance Misuse. This training not only highlights action to be taken when a safeguarding concern is identified but outlines signs and symptoms to look out for and be aware of.

Should a child demonstrate problematic behavioural symptoms then professionals such as

therapists, CYPMHS (Children and Young People's Mental Health Services) and consultation with the area managers can help with finding relevant training and intervention to help the young person. Should we require external training to better understand our young people then this can be sourced and delivered at the training centre in Westgate. An overview of the training provided is included within the Workforce Development Plan. Staff also discuss the young people living in the home and will share all information to ensure that all adults provide a 24 hour curriculum of care. These discussions take place in the form of child focussed meetings which are held monthly but discussions are also held every day at handover. This gives the home a proactive approach to risk assessing the lives of our young people and also to update paperwork such as Behaviour Management Strategies, 24 hour Management Plans as and when required.

The home adopts a very clear anti-bullying policy. There is a high level of supervision of the children and bullying is discussed openly in Children's Meetings. If there is an incident of bullying or perceived bullying this is documented within the homes Bullying Log. From this, action is taken to support and address the incident with the victim being involved in this process and their views taken into account as to how it has been managed and the outcome considered.

The home has a detailed 'Missing Person Procedure'. On admission, the risks and vulnerability for each child are shared with Kent Police. This is undertaken to ensure that there is a high level of interagency communication to safeguard children.

The home completes a detailed Risk Assessment for children on the 'Missing Person's Procedures' to reduce and minimise potential risks. In addition, an individual risk assessment is undertaken to assess the levels of risk the child may be at in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE). The home adopts a pro-active response to incidents of missing children, searching local areas and if unable to locate the child, notifying the local Police, Transport Police, Placing Authority and where appropriate family members in order to ensure a fast and speedy return to the home.

When the child is found they will be welcomed back into the home and the relevant people informed of their safe return. A 'Return from Missing' interview with the child is requested by the home to the Placing Authority. If they are unable to complete this within the 72 hour period and with their agreement, Ethelbert Children's Services can undertake the interview on the Placing Authority's behalf as they have specifically trained Senior Management and Social Workers from the Fostering Service independent to the home. This is then recorded and sent to the Placing Authority Social Worker so that the home and Social Worker can discuss the action that could be taken to prevent any reoccurrence. On admission the home completes a vulnerability assessment which is then shared with the Kent Police who then assign a Personal Identification Description (PID) number. The home has also signed up to local police missing person's protocols and a copy of the DfE statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from the home or care is present within the home.

The home's relevant policies can be requested via the Manager of the home or through our Head Office on 01843 823762 / [headoffice@ethelbert.net](mailto:headoffice@ethelbert.net)

## ***The Views, Wishes and Feelings....***

### ***8. A description of the homes policy and approach to consulting children about the quality of their care.***

The views and opinions of the children in the home are integral to the happiness of the child, their progression and development within the home.

Children are encouraged to participate in regular meetings where they have an opportunity to formally talk about the running of the home, activities, menus and any changes they would like to see.

There is regular key working undertaken with the children. This is a good medium, not only to support, guide and educate them but to also seek their views, opinions, thoughts and feelings.

Children are invited and encouraged to take part in the 'Children Looked After' reviews and their wishes and feelings are considered and discussed appropriately in this meeting.

A monthly monitoring visit is undertaken (Regulation 44). The Independent Visitor to the home has no line management responsibility within the organisation. During the visit they will talk to the children, discussing and capturing how they feel and their experience of living in the home. Any identified areas of concern can then be shared with the home and acted upon. A report is produced detailing the monitoring visit and any findings / observations. A copy of this report is supplied to the Home Manager, Responsible Individual and also forwarded to Ofsted, the Placing Authority and the host Authority upon request.

A Child Consultation Form is in existence within the home which is given to the child shortly after their arrival in the home and at regular intervals thereafter. This provides another forum and opportunity for them to express their views, wishes and feelings about living in the home. If they are unable to personally complete the form, their views will be sought verbally and the form completed on their behalf.

Annual surveys distributed by Ofsted to the home are another consultation method. Children are supported and encouraged to participate in these online surveys to provide Ofsted with feedback on the care afforded them.

As part of the staff appraisal process the children are asked to feedback their opinion on the staff group in the home, this is incorporated into the appraisal document.

## **9. A description of the homes policy and approach in relation to:**

- a) anti-discriminatory practice in respect of children and their families; and**
- b) children's rights**

a) Within the home we accept and promote difference and diversity. All staff receive regular training on anti-discriminatory practice and there is an underpinning model of promoting anti-discriminatory practice at all levels. The home will operate in a child centred way, always taking into account every aspect of the child, their family, history and culture.

b) Children's rights are observed and all children have a full understanding of the complaints procedure and who they can turn to if they feel their rights are not being met. Children have access to contact details for their Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, Independent Visitor, Ofsted and the Children's Commissioner recorded in their Welcome Book in support of this process. These contact details are also kept by the home.

All children regardless of their race, religion, culture, disability or sexual orientation will have their individual needs met and staff will endeavour to ensure that needs are met at all levels, either internally or external provision will be sought if the need arises.

## ***Education....***

### ***10. Details of provision to support children with special educational needs.***

Children placed within the home have often suffered a disjointed educational experience and often do not have a positive attitude and outlook on schooling and learning. Many of the children may have previously had periods of suspension and exclusion from school prior to living here.

Within the home the children are supported and encouraged to achieve best possible outcomes from their starting points. For children placed, this will differ and vary from achieving GCSE's, vocational qualifications to attending further education establishments and college.

The home develops and maintains a good level of communication with educational provisions. There are regular meetings and the staff within the home are aware of the child's educational progress attainment and will encourage and support to ensure that there is a value and emphasis placed on education and educational attainment.

If the child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), the home staff will attend Personal Educational Plan Meetings and associated EHCP meetings. All children are invited to these meetings, or if they chose not to attend, the staff will discuss the content and agreed outcomes with the child.

### ***11. If the home is registered as a school, details of the curriculum provided by the home and the management and structure of the arrangements for education.***

Not applicable.

### ***12. If the home is not registered as a school, the arrangements for children to attend local schools and the provision made by the home to promote children's educational achievement.***

Once placed, children, if possible and where educationally able will attend local mainstream schools and colleges. The home will make application to the school and ensure that the child is supported and provided with a full school uniform and necessary equipment for them to engage fully in the school and curriculum.

In the event that the child is unable to attend mainstream school due to behavioural and educational difficulties, Ethelbert Children's Services has two independent DfE Registered schools.

However, in the event that a suitable educational environment is not readily available or it be deemed necessary for an extended settling in period to be provided, home education can be facilitated.

Both of our schools employ qualified Teachers, Higher Level Teaching Assistants, and Learning Support Assistants led by Head Teacher, Susan Howson. Susan joined the company in 2014 and was a teacher and a SENCo at The Old Priory School before her promotion to Head of SEN and Deputy Head for both The Old Priory School and The Davenport School and subsequently the promotion to Head Teacher. Susan is a qualified Citizenship Teacher, has a special interest in the Personal Development of pupils and her experience in SEN ensures that the curriculum is designed around Provision, Intervention and High-Quality Teaching. She holds the NASENCo qualification and has completed continued professional development study in Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding, Whole School Literacy, and Curriculum Design. Susan holds a BA (Hons) degree from the University of Leicester and gained her PGSE and NASENCo qualifications at Christ Church University, Canterbury.

Pupils have access to a broad and balanced education based on the National Curriculum and a therapeutic approach is used under the auspices of an EDB/SEN designation.

### **The Old Priory School (TOPS)**

The Old Priory School is registered to educate young people aged 11 – 17 years at Key Stages 3 & 4 levels. All pupils have access to the National Curriculum within a safe, structured, learning environment. Courses lead to GCSE, ASDAN, functional skills and a range of vocational qualifications. Pupils are placed into tutorial groups appropriate to their individual needs with experienced and qualified teaching staff. Each group has a dedicated Learning Support Assistant who has considerable experience in working with children.

### **Davenport School**

The Davenport School is an Independent SEMH bespoke primary learning environment. The school is registered for up to 20 pupils of mixed gender and ability aged between 5 -12 year (Key Stage 1-2). The school provides its own curriculum with emphasis placed on developing literacy and numeracy for the children. We follow the key objectives of the Literacy and Numeracy National Curriculum on a daily basis and pupils are challenged and supported to enable them to reach their full potential. All lessons are made fun and interactive with a key focus of being student led. In the afternoons we teach a termly topic lessons incorporating educational trips out to make the curriculum and lessons interesting and engaging. We encourage more physical and practical topics such as PE and PSHE giving the children the opportunities to experience a wide range of topics throughout the week.

There is a high level of teacher / LSA to child ratio and the aim for the children is to make education an enjoyable, rewarding and positive experience setting the foundation for future education. Where possible we would support the reintegration of children back into a mainstream environment and have developed links with nearby primary schools to support this goal.

## **Park Lane Assessment Centre**

Park Lane is part of 'The Old Priory School' and is situated in Margate. It is a centre delivering a Vocational Curriculum enabling children to acquire trade skills including: Bricklaying, Carpentry, Plaster Boarding and Plastering, Guttering, Plastic Pipework, Concreting Skills, Painting and Decorating, Ceramic Wall Tiling, Car Maintenance, Health and Safety and Literacy and Numeracy. The courses taught are aimed at specific qualifications which prepare students for 16+ college placements and to help students gain employment within the construction industry. The current qualifications that students work towards include: CITB Level 1, City and Guilds Level 1, NPTC - Entry Level 2 & 3 and ASDAN Bronze, Silver and Gold award. It is anticipated that OCR Entry Level - Life and Living Skills will be delivered at a future date.

### ***13. The arrangements for enabling children to take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, intellectual, physical and social interests and skills.***

The creation of a nurturing and caring environment will enable the children to grow, develop and achieve. A childhood should be a positive, happy experience for children growing up and the home has a sense of fun, energy and enthusiasm. The children are supported in attending education and encouraged to think about and achieve realistic goals and aspirations.

Where possible, consultation with the children's family will be undertaken throughout the placement and it is acknowledged that they have a wealth of information and knowledge about the child. Where children follow a specific religion and/or culture, the staff will actively research this and in consultation with them incorporate this into their care and everyday living.

The staff team will support and encourage the children in developing and maintaining a wide range of hobbies, sports and interests. The children are consulted on a daily basis on activities that they wish to participate in and/or try and where possible this is encouraged and supported by the home. If a child has a particular interest or hobby then necessary equipment and lessons will be provided. The children will be encouraged to participate in outside clubs and activities and the staff team will assist in developing links with the clubs to ensure that the child is supported and that this is a positive experience that helps in the building of self-esteem.

## ***Health and Wellbeing ...***

### ***14. Details of any healthcare or therapy provided, including:***

- a) Details of the qualifications and professional supervision of the staff involved in providing any healthcare or therapy; and;**
- b) Information about how the effectiveness of any healthcare or therapy provided is measured, the evidence demonstrating its effectiveness and details of how the information or the evidence can be accessed.**

a) Please refer to Section 2 of the homes Workforce Development Plan for details of the Management Team and all staff commissioned to provide Education, Therapy or Healthcare.

b) The home works hard to ensure that the overall health needs of the children maintain paramount importance. It is recognised that our children may struggle from time to time accessing any health appointments and health needs and therefore the staff in the home work hard to ensure that our children have a solid understanding of basic health needs and in fact how this can impact on them.

As already identified, all children will have access to a key worker who along with the Home Manager will have a responsibility to ensure that the young person is registered with all the relevant health services (doctors, dentists, opticians) to ensure that there is the beginning of the cycle of appointments being met.

When placed each child will have a full health profile compiled for them and this will allow constant tracking and monitoring of all areas relating to both physical and emotional health. Historical information is sought from social workers and where possible family members. As well as identifying basic health needs, health profiles are also able to highlight if there are specific areas of concern that may need a particular advice or action. Health Action Plan targets are devised and developed.

Given the nature of our children we may need to look at providing additional therapeutic support to be able to help them to think and come to terms with difficulties that they have or have had in the past. As part of our service, we are able to link into the wider therapeutic service that is provided by Ethelbert Children's Services. The therapy service has therapists from a variety of different disciplines. All therapists have been interviewed and through the process of checking references we have confirmed both qualifications and external professional supervision details.

There is an internal process where, in consultation with the Social Worker, the Manager of the home makes a referral to the Therapy Services Manager to request therapeutic support for a child. Once a decision has been made to identify additional support for a child, or indeed staff team. A referral form will be completed and submitted to the Therapy Services Manager for consideration and implementation. As part of the consideration a matching process will be completed to consider which therapeutic discipline would be most suitable and identify the reasons why. The Social Worker, child and where applicable parents are involved in this process.

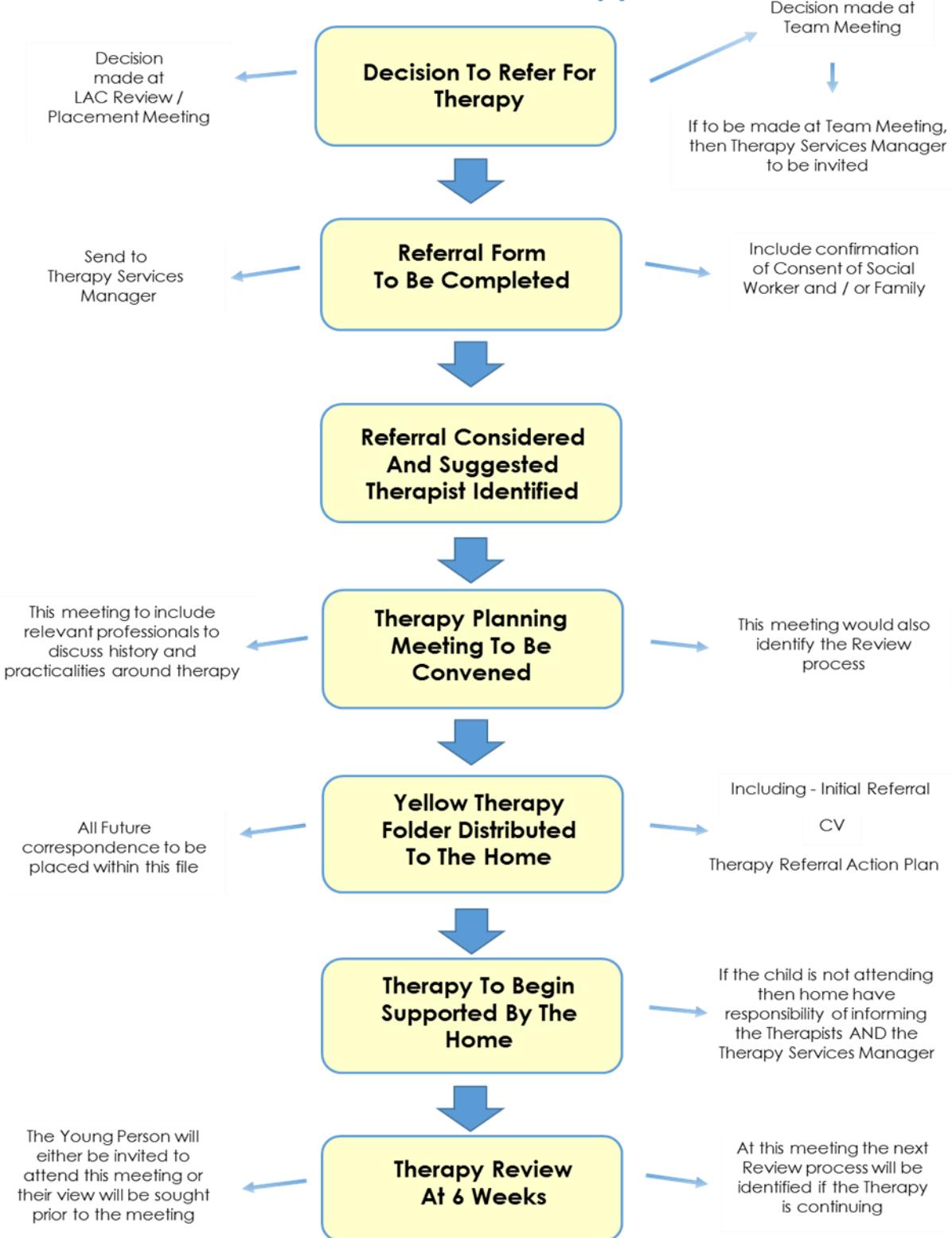
Following the referral there will then be a Therapy Planning meeting between the Therapy Services Manager, allocated therapist, Social Worker and Registered Manager of the home. In this meeting there will be a clear outline of how therapy will happen on a practical level (venue, day and time) and a review process will also be identified. Most situations will call for a review to happen after the first 6 weeks. This will hopefully allow sufficient time for a suitable relationship between child and therapist to begin and reflected upon before a plan is made for the future.

Beyond the review process there is a request/expectation that the therapist will provide a report at regular intervals to measure the success of the intervention. In addition to this, there will also be termly Therapy Review meetings to ensure that there is constant professional oversight and evaluation of the work that is being completed. All reports will be held on the therapy file of the child in question.

Effective therapy for 'Children Looked After' is reliant on good planning and an appropriate level of positive communication to ensure that it is successful. If at any point in the process there is any concern regarding the intervention or the process then any party, including the child, are able to call for a meeting to review the support offered.

Our Therapy Process Flow Chart follows:-

## Flow Chart For Therapy



## ***Positive Relationships ...***

### ***15. The arrangements for promoting contact between children and their families and friends.***

Every child has a right to have and maintain contact with their family, friends and other significant adults in their life, providing that this does not affect their safety, well-being and it is in their best interests.

The home will support contact visits and help develop the relationships that exist for the child.

Contact visits can be supervised and in support of this, a Contact Working Agreement will be drawn up between the home, family member/friend/significant adult and the Social Worker so that there is clarity of expectation, structure, frequency and direction. Transport and support is available to all children on a needs led basis and/or where deemed appropriate or necessary.

As a home we recognise the importance and significance of contact. To help support this, if the child is placed a long way from their home, there is an accommodation service available to support developing contact and ensuring that this is a positive experience for the child and their family alike.

The children are encouraged to maintain indirect contact by telephone or through letters and emails, this is discussed and incorporated into their individual Placement and 24 Hour Management Plans.

The level of contact is set out in the Initial Placement Planning Meeting and reviewed through the child's 'Child Looked After' review process.

## ***The Protection of Children ...***

### ***16. A description of the homes approach to the monitoring and surveillance of children.***

The home has an internal bedroom door alarm system fitted. The alarm system is fitted purely as a protective safeguarding measure so as to monitor the movements of children at night.

When all the children have settled to bed the bedroom door alarms within the house are activated. When a child opens their door, a discreet alarm is activated in either the staff member's bedroom or on a pager system that the staff can carry with them at night. It is the member of staff's responsibility to check on the child and ascertain why they are up and to check on their welfare. Once the child is settled back to bed, the alarm is then reset and the staff return to their room for the remainder of the night.

In line with Children Homes Regulations, there is a risk assessment undertaken regarding each child and the need for the safeguarding door alarm system being in operation for each child. There is a signed consent form from the person with Parental Authority obtained prior to admission of the child into the home. If there is no identified need for a child's door to be alarmed then it is removed from the door alarm system.

### ***17. Details of the home's approach to behavioural support, including information about:***

- a) The home's approach to restraint in relation to children; and**
- b) How persons working in the home are trained in restraint and how their competence is assessed.**

a) The children are placed within our home primarily for behavioural and mild to moderate learning difficulties and problems that have resulted in them being unable to live in their family home and/or in a foster placement.

Within the home, it is understood that it is the quality of relationships developed between the children and staff that supports the children in their behaviour and interactions.

When there is a behavioural issue and/or incident there is a discussion with the child regarding what happened and how this could have been addressed differently. Strategies to support thoughts, feelings and situations are discussed with the child to try and help them learn and internalise different boundaries and expectations.

On occasions it may be necessary to further reinforce this by setting a sanction. The setting of a sanction is to give a clear parental message to the child of disapproval. Sanctions, where possible and practicable will be related to the incident in an attempt to provide an association and learning experience for the child. Sanctions set are recorded within the homes Sanction Log and

children are invited to express their thoughts and views.

Within the home, there is a detailed Behaviour Support Plan devised for all children. This strategy outlines presenting behavioural difficulties and or challenges for the child and staff intervention to manage this effectively.

Behaviour Support Plans are reviewed and updated regularly and all are overseen by CPI Safety Interventions Instructors to ensure that the practice and intervention is in line with accredited training.

There may be situations and occasions where children need to be physically contained and held by staff. This is a last resort intervention by staff and one which is only implemented when there is a high level of risk to others, damage or to the young person themselves.

Staff are to try and calm and de-escalate the situation in line with individual Behaviour Support Plans for the child. Any physical intervention is to, where possible, be supported by two members of staff. In addition to this there is always a member of staff on duty in the home who is fully trained in first aid assisting in the safeguarding of a young person following an incident of physical intervention. In the event that physical intervention is/was necessary and at an appropriate time, the child is to be offered medical support.

There is to be a discussion with the child as to the incident and how this could have been supported/handled differently and more positively. All 'holds' and subsequent debriefs with young people and staff are recorded within the homes Restraint Log.

b) All staff are currently trained in CPI's Safety Interventions. The CPI's Safety Intervention course has been developed using the foundations of the 'Crisis Development Model', previously used in MAPA. The course itself is to understand how to de-escalate behaviours using tools such as body language and verbal/non-verbal strategies. This will assist in developing and maintaining relationships which in turn should minimise challenging behaviour.

Michael Atkins is our own fully accredited CPI Safety Interventions Instructor, who undertakes staff training across the entire company, including our foster carers. Michael has been delivering the CPI Safety Intervention programme since February 2018 and during this period has progressed from the position of CPI accredited trainer to a CPI Senior Instructor. In addition to this Michael also has extensive experience of residential childcare having been an Ofsted Registered Home Manager since September 2016.

### **The CPI Safety Interventions Philosophy**

Incorporated into our training are methods for staff to safely disengage from situations that present risks to themselves, the child or others. The staff learn to safely and effectively use a range of disengagements and holding techniques that are appropriate to circumstances whereby an individual expresses themselves through challenging, aggressive, or violent behaviour and we provide an education to staff enabling the identification of defensible choices regarding the use of disengaging from and/or holding a child or young person.

Upon completion of the programme, other benefits include the abilities to:

- Establish emotional contact and bonding between staff and the child through the use of verbal and physical interaction using the debriefing system.
- Allow the expression of anger, frustration, anxiety and emotional turmoil in a safe and controlled environment.

- Enable staff to explore issues of threat and confrontation with the child.
- Enable children to recognise their feelings and to learn to express themselves in meaningful and constructive ways.
- Help children and staff to identify and adopt alternative coping strategies.
- Help children and staff alike develop more meaningful and trusting relationships.

CPI safety intervention training operates within the standards of the British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) Code of Practice for the Use and Reduction of Restrictive Physical Interventions (2010) and is accredited by the BILD Physical Interventions Accreditation Scheme.

All staff undertake annual training that is certificated by the CPI safety Intervention instructor stating competence in applying physical holds and de-escalation.

## ***Leadership and Management ...***

### ***18. The name and work address of:***

- a) the registered provider;**
- b) the responsible individual (if one is nominated); and.**
- c) the registered Manager (if one is appointed).**

a) The Registered Provider is Ethelbert Specialist Homes Limited trading as Ethelbert Children's Services. The Company's registered address is 17, Leigh Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EU. It is registered at Companies House as a Private Limited Company, registration number 03291503.

b) The Responsible Individual is Leslie Davenport of 17, Leigh Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EU.

c) The Registered Home Manager is Sheryl Davies of 17, Leigh Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5EU.

### ***19. Details of the experience and qualifications of staff, including any staff commissioned to provide education or healthcare.***

a) Please refer to Section 1, in the home's Workforce Development Plan under Management and Staffing structures for details of the experience and qualifications of the current staff team. Also included in the Workforce Development Plan under Section 2 are details of the management team and all staff commissioned to provide Education, Therapy or Healthcare.

**Please note:** Staff Profiles and those commissioned to provide Education, Therapy & Healthcare services are also available upon request as Appendices to the Statement of Purpose.

### ***20. Details of the management and staffing structure of the home, including arrangements for the professional supervision of staff, including staff that provide education or healthcare.***

Sheryl Davies assumed the role of Interim Home Manager of Royal Oak House on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 following a gradual transition into the role with full guidance and support from Area Manager, Gordon Shaw. Once in post Sheryl commenced her Registered managers application to Ofsted and following a successful Fit Person Interview, Sheryl was awarded Full Registered Manager status

on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Sheryl has many years experience having previously worked in several of the homes within Ethelbert Children's Services with both male and female young people and will continue to professionally develop her chosen career within this role and her application to Ofsted for Registered Manager status is in progress.

The children she has cared for have had varying level of needs, such as ADHD, ASD, Epilepsy, whilst others have displayed extreme challenging behaviour and emotional problems. Sheryl has completed her CWDC Induction Standards training as well as her Level 3 NVQ in Health and Social Care – Children and Young People and is currently working through her Level 5 Diploma in leadership and management. Prior to working for the organisation, she completed a work based Foundation Degree in Childhood Studies (birth to 18 years) which involved working in a primary school for 2½ years. During this time, she worked as a Teacher's Assistant across all year groups followed by 1:1 support for a young person from a local care home. She also completed speech and language work with young people who need help in that area. Sheryl has many years of experience as a Scout, which progressed to Scout Leader, enabling her to take part in outdoor activities such as bike rides and walks along the beach. Indoor activities also interest her and she enjoys playing board games and going craft activities with the young people. Initially commencing her employment with Ethelbert Children's Services as a Residential Worker, Sheryl worked hard to achieve personal development within the company and saw promotion to Senior Residential Worker status, which was supported by attending all relevant and mandatory training provided with the role. where she will continue to professionally develop in her chosen career.

At full occupancy the home will have a sufficient staff team to meet the children's needs. There may be circumstances when it is necessary to have a higher staffing support, and wherever possible this should be achieved by using staff from the home or staff from other homes that are known to the children. It is not company policy to use agency staff.

If in extreme circumstances there is a shortfall in staffing levels and it is considered necessary to reduce staffing levels to one member of staff or in the event of sole occupancy the Manager, in consultation with Senior Management, will make a formal assessment of the implications for the child(ren) and all likely risks and record these to ensure adequate safeguarding. In support of this an on-call system is available on a 24/7 basis to request staff support via the Registered Manager or on call Senior Manager who will be able to identify support from other ECS homes in close proximity. A Workforce Development Plan is within the home to ensure sufficiency of staff numbers and ongoing recruitment.

The Registered Manager is supervised by an Area Manager. This takes the form of monthly documented supervision where the operational running staffing and needs of the children are discussed and considered. In the absence of the Manager or Senior Residential Worker at the home, the Area Manager can deputise for the day to day responsibilities within the home. The Registered Manager is then responsible for arranging supervision within the home directly supervising the Senior Residential Worker. Supervision occurs on a monthly basis as a minimum and is documented and filed appropriately within the home. The Registered Manager or Senior Residential Worker within the home offer and provide the Residential Workers a minimum of monthly supervision. This offers and provides qualitative feedback on performance in working with and supporting the young people.

Royal Oak House staff team have group supervision facilitated by a qualified therapist. This is undertaken on a regular basis and offers the team a further support in working with the children in the home.

All staff members receive an annual appraisal. This is undertaken in conjunction with the staff member and all aspects of the role are appraised and reviewed. Targets are set for the development of the staff member and this is discussed in supervision and also forms part of the appraisal process upon successful completion of their probationary period.

***21. If the staff are all of one sex, or mainly of one sex, a description of how the home promotes appropriate role models of both sexes.***

The home has a mixed staff team gender with a balance between male and female workers within the home.

## **Care Planning ...**

### **22. Any criteria used for the admission of children to the home, including any policies and procedures for emergency admission.**

Ethelbert Children's Services has a Head of Placements, Martin Foster.

Initially, all referrals come through the Placements Team. There is significant information requested in relation to the child being referred and essential information gained before a discussion with the Registered Manager takes place as to the suitability of the referral. In the absence of the Registered Manager, this assessment of suitability may take place with the respective Area Manager.

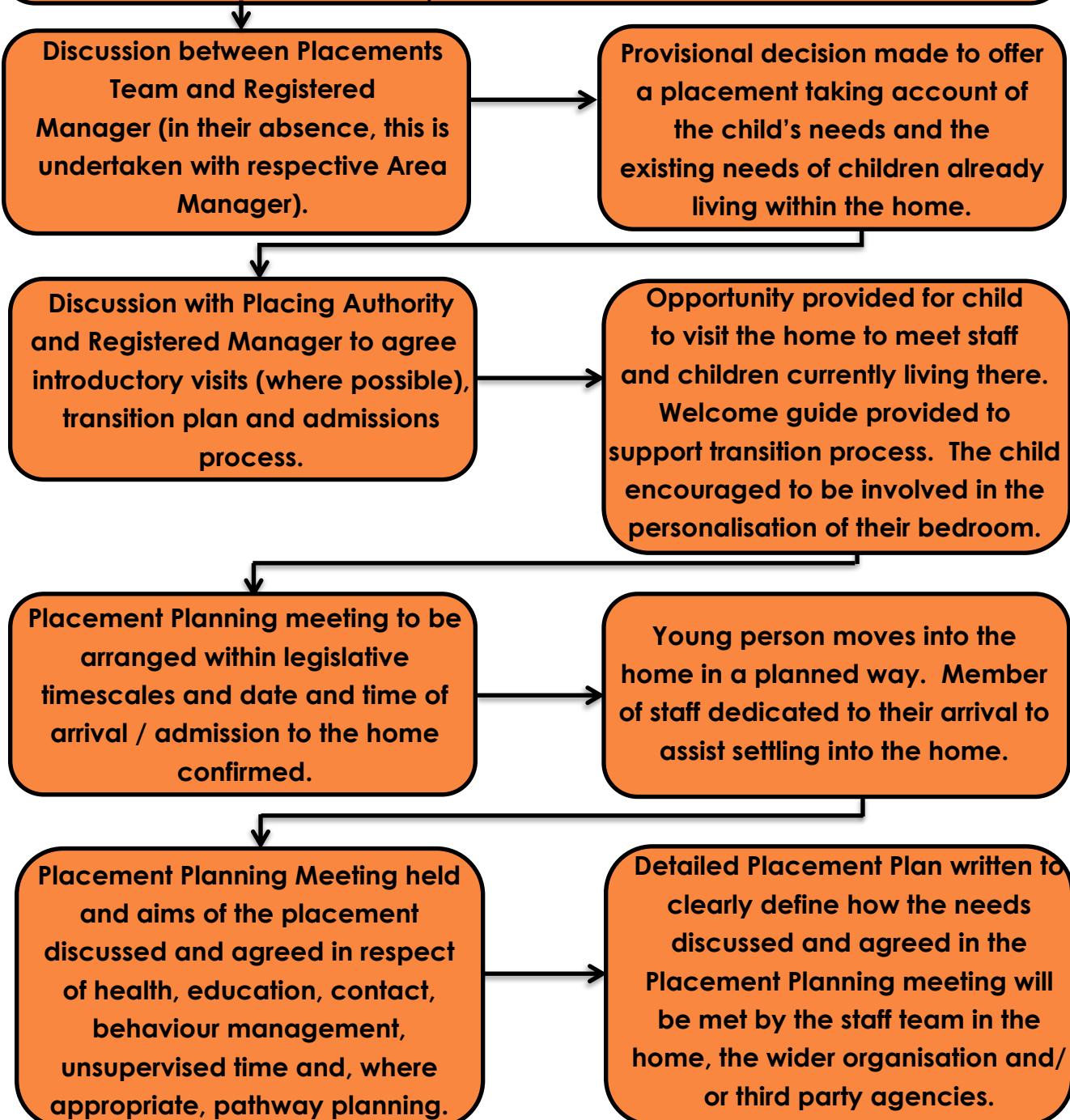
If the referral is felt to be a suitable match, the Registered Manager will liaise directly with the Placing Authority and Social Worker to discuss in more depth the care needs and aims of placement. If the Registered Manager (or in their absence, the Area Manager) believes that the home can meet the child's needs in conjunction with the other children already living there, there is a plan of admission outlined. This plan of admission will be individualised, however, where possible, it is good practice for the new child to have the opportunity to visit the home, prior to placement and meet the staff and other children. A child friendly Welcome Book is used as a good introduction to the house and supports the child in the initial move, outlining the home in a bright, colourful format with pictures. This is discussed with the other members of staff and the children already living within the home.

Where possible, placements and admissions are planned; however, the home does accept emergency referrals and same-day admissions when sufficient information is available to make a considered matching decision. Emergency placements are reviewed with the Placing Authority within 72 hours of admission, at which time a decision is taken as to whether the child is appropriately placed and the home can continue to meet their needs on a longer-term basis.

Procedures for both planned and emergency referrals can be found on the following two pages.

# Planned Placement & Admission Procedures

Referral for a child received by Ethelbert Children's Services Placements Team. Request of referral information including chronology, care plan, educational needs, health needs, latest LAC review minutes, assessments previously undertaken and any additional information specific to the child. A decision to proceed the referral can be made without all the paperwork being present as information can be gained during the admission process. Any outstanding information will be further requested within the Placement.



# Emergency Placement & Admission Procedures

Emergency referral for a child received by Ethelbert Children's Services Placement's Team. Request of referral information including chronology, care plan, educational needs, health needs, latest LAC review, minutes, assessments previously undertaken and any additional information specific to the child. However due to the nature of the emergency this information may not be available at the point of Referral and the decision to offer a placement may be based on referral information and assessment of risk. On these occasions the home will request a placement meeting within 72 hours of admission. If this is not possible an internal review of placement will be undertaken

Discussion between Head of Placements  
Placements and Registered Manager  
(in their absence, this is undertaken with  
respective Area Manager).

Decision made to offer an emergency  
placement taking account of child's  
needs and the existing needs  
of children already living in the home.

Discussion with Placing Authority and  
Registered / Area Manager to agree  
emergency admission arrangements,  
share any additional essential  
information and agree emergency  
risk assessments.

Welcome guide provided to  
support transition process. By  
email, if possible, or on the child's  
arrival. Child welcomed  
to the home and supported as  
necessary to settle in.

Placement Review Meeting to be arranged within 72 hours to  
fully consider whether the placement can meet the child's  
longer-term care needs. If this is not possible an internal  
review will be undertaken assessing suitability of placement

If appropriate, Placement Planning  
Meeting held (can be an extension of  
the Placement Review if all parties are  
in agreement). Placement needs  
discussed and agreed as per planned  
admission process.

If placement is considered  
inappropriate, close liaison with the  
Placing Authority is undertaken to  
ensure a smooth and timely ending,  
and a more suitable placement.

Detailed Placement Plan written to clearly  
define how the needs discussed and agreed  
in the Placement Planning meeting will be  
met by the staff team in the home, the wider  
organisation and/or third party agencies.

# Appendices

## **Current Home Staff Profiles**

### **Therapists and Healthcare Professionals**

*(All the above along with Staff Training can also be found  
in the Workforce Development Plan within the home).*

In an effort to maintain accuracy and up to date information  
These documents will remain 'loose leaf'. Updates and amendments  
are sent to Ofsted within 28 days