

LAKELAND HEIGHTS CHILDREN'S HOME  
2-4 ALEXANDER ROAD  
READING  
RG1 5PE  
12.04.2021

Claire Goss/Amanda Barnes  
Brighter Futures for Children  
Commissioners  
Reading Council

Dear Ms Goss and Ms Barnes,

Re: Introduction of a Lakeland Heights Children's Home to Reading Council:

**BRIEF INTRODUCTION:**

Lakelands Heights is a prospective provider of residential and short break care for children and young people aged 8 -18 years old. We specialise in working with children and young people with autism spectrum disorders, profound and multiple, physical disabilities, learning disabilities and complex health needs. The home has capacity of accommodating 10 children and young people.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

Our Statement of Purpose has been designed to accurately reflect and describe how we, Lakelands Heights Children's Home – Reading, sets out our offer of a child centred approach, stimulating, safe environment for all children and young people to meet their needs and achieve their maximum potential, mobility and independence through the provision of activities and equipment

Our Statement of Purpose is periodically reviewed and/or as necessary, to ensure it continues to accurately reflect best practice in children and young people's residential care to continue generating positive actions for them.

Our Statement of Purpose is written in line with Regulation 16, Schedule 1 of the Children's Home Regulations 2001 (updated 2015).

## OUR ETHOS:

To provide children and young people with skilled support from committed staff in a safe, caring, welcoming and a structured environment. To create a homely environment whilst providing the highest quality of care for children and young people in order to have positive outcomes, physically, emotionally and socially, and to develop their confidence. To provide appropriate communication methods to meet diverse needs, consult, engage and treat them with dignity and empower children and young people to be independent and have positive experiences. To provide support to children by trained staff to meet their agreed care plan needs

We aim to achieve our ethos through

- Consulting with and listening to children and young people, families, carers about and professionals about decisions affecting them and valuing their contribution and treating all with respect.

Supporting children and young people and families and carers by meeting the agreed care plan

We complete holistic robust needs assessments for each child and young person using our services including their family background and experience, disabilities, health needs and risks etc. in order to understand and be sensitive to their needs and to inform effective plans tailored around their needs to generate positive outcomes for them.

Person Centred Active Support model is used to engage children with complex needs in meaningful activities and relationships as active participants. Staff will work with children to enable them to take part in all the activities of everyday life.

- We are child focused and provide high-quality person-centred care that recognise children and young people's talents and skills to supporting to make significant progress that draws out their full potential, thereby attaining successful outcomes that gives them confidence and future opportunities.
- We promote the "voice of the child" and listen to their views. We have an uncompromising stand on the active recognition of children and young people's rights. Based on each child and young person's views, wishes, feelings, choices and needs, we develop Individualised Care Plans tailored

around their needs that detail the care and support they require, setting goals that build on positive relationships, enjoyment and achievement, and the health and well-being of the children and young people.

- Safeguarding children is everyone in Lakeside Heights responsibility. All staff has a statutory responsibility to respond to concerns that a child may be suffering from abuse. We ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to children and young people, and of the steps to take to report a concern about a child's welfare.

We have a robust safeguarding procedure to protect children and young people in our care from harm and minimise the assessed risks posed to them. This is central to everything we do.

- Monitoring quality of service provision, providing clear leadership and transparency in service delivery
  - Having a skilled and innovative staff team who are able to manage risks, promote a positive attitude to provide opportunities to children and valuing their contribution.

These procedures recognise that children are entitled to protection from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. It is the responsibility of the staff always to record their concerns in writing; this should be recorded clearly and explicitly, along with any discussions and agreed actions about a child/young person's welfare. A child's welfare is the paramount consideration, and if staff members have any concerns about a child's well-being, they will record this and discuss it with the home manager.

We monitor progress and developmental outcomes of each child and young person in relation to the individual independence programmes and other associated plans. This promotes skills of daily living and interaction with peers and prepares them for the transition to adulthood.

- Our comprehensive children and young people's-based transition planning is our approach which enables us to confidently carry out smooth transitions. For all transitions to and from residential or educational placements, we use a multiagency approach working in partnership with family, Carers and any relevant key professionals to develop SMART plans for children and young people in our care including transition to adulthood planning.

- We establish effective working relationships with the children and young people's school or college thus ensuring that there is open communication and information sharing on a need-to-know basis. This promotes working together

with a common goal to enable children and young people in our care to attend, learn and maximise their educational potential.

- Our home has an unwavering stance on both promoting and practising policies of Equal Opportunities, valuing Diversity and Anti-discriminatory practices.

We provide each child and young person with stability and security, together with the opportunity to develop practical, social, emotional and social skills, as a result, enhancing their confidence, enabling them to develop and benefit from positive relationships.

Thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence. I appreciate your view based on the information provided and consideration of whether Lakeland Heights Children's Home is a relevant service for children and young people in Reading. I have provided my contact details and happy to have further discussion with you in case more clarity is required about this prospective service.

Your sincerely,

Sophia De Smet