

Management of the children's home

The site and building would remain under the ownership of Kingston Council, and would be operated by Achieving for Children (AfC) under a license or lease arrangement. Achieving for Children (AfC) is a community interest company (a not-for-profit social enterprise) created in 2014 by the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to provide their children's services.

In 2017, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead joined AfC as its third owner. It now delivers social care, education and health services to children and young people across all three boroughs.

Staffing

All staff would be committed and well trained residential children's home professionals. The home would be registered and monitored by Ofsted.

The Department for Education (Government) stipulates that the registered manager has a Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare or equivalent, and staff have a Level 3 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare or equivalent. Some staff may have additional qualifications, for example in social and youth work and education.

Experience of running children's homes

Achieving for Children runs a similar children's home in Richmond upon Thames, Hope House, which opened in September 2020 and many people currently employed by AfC have experience of working within the children's residential care sector. The Associate Director for Provider Services has over 12 years' experience of acting as the responsible individual for children's homes.

Staff supervision

If children are in residence there would be at least two residential care staff, working shift patterns to provide 24 hour coverage. Other adult professionals would also visit, for example, a social worker might visit a child after school.

Daily routines

The home will function in a very similar fashion to a family home apart from the adults will be trained staff rather than biological or step parents of the children. Meals will be prepared and eaten together. Staff will encourage the children to have breakfast before school, do their homework and go to bed on time. The home creates a therapeutic community where the children can feel safe and secure.

At weekends and in school holidays their routines would be different and again reflect the movements of a typical teenager – leaving the property to visit friends, attend clubs, etc and returning to the house to sleep.

Shopping and cooking

Managing food would be the responsibility of staff, although like any home, the children would be encouraged to play an active role in this, whether this would be by visiting shops or booking online deliveries. Meals would be prepared by any of staff members with broader responsibilities, a dedicated cook, or the children themselves.



Weekends and school holidays

During all school holidays, and at weekends, a range of activities would be arranged. In the summer holidays, this would include an extended trip away from the home, for example two weeks for the children accompanied by staff.

Visits to residents

Friends and family of the children and young people would also visit the home from time to time.

Transport

The home would have its own vehicle, likely to be a seven seat MPV. This car could be used for tasks such as giving the children a lift to school, going away on holiday, or weekend activities.

17-19 Chamberlain Way, Surbiton