

The application is for change of use from a C3(a) private dwelling to a C3(b) supported accommodation for children with mental health needs and or learning disabilities. We are going to use the house as a children's residential home offering supported and or semi independent supported accommodation. This will be either long term placements for some and short term for others depending with the child's individual needs. There will be 4 or less children in the house at any given time and there will be 2 or less staff at any given time in the house. Staff will be working on a 12 hour shift pattern. Day shift runs from 0700 and finish at 1900 hrs and night shift runs from 1900hrs to 0700 hrs. There will not be unnecessary movements other than children being taken out to school, therapy sessions, activities and doctor appointment. Visitation from family members and professionals will be by appointment only. No staff will be staying on site. There is a large car park off road meaning traffic floor will not be compromised.

The Cooper Oaks house (Mashdel Healthcare) will be a children's home registered under Section 60 of the Children Act 1989 providing specialist residential care for up to 4 young people, of either gender, usually aged between 5 and 18 years (5-17 years on admission). Young people are usually placed on a 52-week care basis but in some cases 39-week placements or less may be considered if appropriate. Emergency referrals may be considered subject to a satisfactory impact risk assessment; all decisions are based on individual need and take into consideration the needs of the other young people already living in the home. In some circumstances young people may stay beyond the age of 18 years if onward placement could not be facilitated in time. How this will work :-

1. 2 members of staff will attend to the site at any one time

2. Ages of the children residing at the site will be between 5 and 17 years

3. On a typical day staff will arrive at 0700 after which they will have handover from the night staff. On waking up children are encouraged to attend to their personal care before coming down to the kitchen where a staff member will help them to make their breakfast and have their medication. They then are encouraged to tidy their bedrooms after which activities for the day are discussed and agreed to. Those children who need escorting will be escorted to their therapy groups, walks/activities, doctors etc. On coming back midday staff encourage children to make their lunch and if there is shopping to be done then the child that need shopping will be taken out for shopping. Day shift ends at 1900 hours. The night shift staff will encourage children to interact, participate in activities before encouraging them to go to bed. If any of the children have medication they will be encouraged to take medication at the right time. Therefore there will not be unnecessary movement of traffic in and out of the premises.

The property is a 5 bedded detached house built on a spacious piece of land (0.23 hectares) in a quiet area in Halstead, Braintree. It is currently a private dwelling. It has 4 beds on the first floor and 1 bedroom in the annex at the back. Has 2 kitchens (One in the main house and a small kitchen in the annex). It has two reception areas one in the main house ground floor and one in the annex. It has 2 bathrooms (a family bathroom on the first floor and one on the ground floor. The annex has its own bathroom. One bedroom is ensuite. There is a laundry room and a spacious storage cupboard. There is also one addition room which will be used as an office.

Outside there is a large car park that accommodates up to 4 cars off road. There is a spacious large garden and playing area on the side that children can play.

This house is ideal for looking after children either with learning disabilities, special needs, mental health issues of behaviours that challenges.