

Foundations for Families

APPLICANTS SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Proposed Change of Use from Dwelling (C3) to Child and Family Assessment Centre (Residential Institution C2) including minor internal alterations at 17 Longford Road Bognor Regis West Sussex PO21 1AA

Foundations for Families will be a Residential Child and Family Assessment Unit.

The purpose of the residential home is to assess parents whose children are considered by the Court and the Local Authority to be at risk of harm through parental behaviours and/or lifestyle. Families spend from 6-12 weeks in the home with their children.

Foundations for Families will be staffed 24/7 by Social Workers and Family Workers who will assess the parent's capacity to care for their children now and throughout their minority. The home will employ specialist workers to support parents to recognise risk and achieve change for their children.

Foundations for Families is owned and directed by Cressida Ross and Rachel Richardson. Rachel has over 20 years qualified experience in front line Child Protection and is currently a manager of a Child Protection team. Cressida is a Senior Social Worker with 14 years experience in frontline Child Protection.

Mission Statement

It is our belief at Foundations for Families; children will be safe, whilst their parents/carers are given the best opportunity to care for them. We will provide a safe arena for the children, whilst offering support, teaching and assessment to Parents/carers. Whilst first and foremost we will ensure children's safety we will endeavour to equip parents in making confident life choices for now and in the future, to enable them to make a positive contribution to their community and society.

In order to achieve this we will offer the support that is required to Parents/carers to allow them to grow and change behaviours where possible, we believe in enabling people and offering them the best opportunity to do this.

Products and Services

Foundations for Families will provide comprehensive family assessments which will inform Court decisions commissioned by the Local Authority.

Foundations for Families will provide a highly qualified staffing structure; which will consist of qualified Social Workers, directors, managers and the board of Trustees all of whom have a vast knowledge of Social Work and Safeguarding. This will ensure our home has one of the highest levels of qualified staff in the country.



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The providing of specialist staff such as drug and alcohol workers, mental health professionals and counsellors to our client's families is a priority for our agenda. This will ensure we can meet all needs in terms of comprehensive and informed assessments. We will provide a qualified counsellor, mental health, drug and alcohol worker onsite, so as not to drain the already stretched local resources. We also will work in collaboration with local agencies and charities, such as Health, Change Grow Live, My Sister's House and offer advice, support and facilitate small groups where appropriate.

Members of our staff will be qualified to facilitate the recognised Triple P Parenting and Solihull Parenting courses. We plan independently to facilitate these courses which will support local parents. Additional courses are being considered to address alcohol and drug issues, domestic violence and support positive mental health. We will work with local agencies and charities to ensure these parents have the support they require, now and in the future to safely parent their children.

In addition we will also be providing a parenting assessment facility to the Local Authority, which will support social workers, thus being more cost effective to the Local Authority by reducing social workers travel time and expenses. We will hold Family Network meetings to support the Local Authority, taking this role, again releasing the social work staff to focus on more pressing issues. These meetings are recognised to enable families to support parents to care for the children within the family network, reducing the costs of legal proceedings leading to adoption, and most importantly keeping local families together.

Our Aim is for staff to be sourced from the local area, providing additional jobs within the community. In addition it is our intention to support our workers in training and development in their specialist areas.

The Proposed Use & Parking

The proposed property is currently a four-bedroom dwelling with a single, on curtilage, car parking garage space set within a mixed commercial and residential area close to the town centre. The location is ideally suited for the proposed use and the resident families to access local community facilities and support to help maintain their progress when they have left the residential facility.

With the train station within a five-minute walk and Longford Road on a bus route attending professional's, staff and visitors will be encouraged to make use of public transport links. Residents will not be allowed to bring their own vehicles to the facility during their stay.

Rachel Richardson

Director

Foundations for Families Ltd

Doc Ref: 19001-APSTAT.01 Date: 01 February 2019