

ASCENSION SOCIAL CARE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Children's Homes Regulations 2001, 4 (1), require that we have in place a written Statement of Purpose and Function for each home. In addition, regulation 4(2) requires that we provide a copy of this document to Ofsted and that we also make a copy available upon request to:

- Any person working in the home.
- Any child accommodated in the home.
- The parent of any child accommodated in the home.
- The place of authority of any child accommodated in the home.
- A placing authority who is considering placing a child in the home

This document is the foundation for Ascension Social Care service provision and its delivery within the home/accommodation). It is also the best practice and management template to which we aim to adhere and be measured.

Ofsted is the national body set up under the Care Standards Act 2000 for the regulation and inspection of social care services, including Ascension Social Care (ASC). We are aiming to register Ascension Social Care (Fortune Avenue) as a supported accommodation under the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.

Ascension Social Care Supported Accommodation aims to provide a secure, welcoming home for young people to live and flourish in, offering personalised support on their journey to adulthood. We believe young people have a greater prospect of success when they possess the skills and resources to navigate their next steps towards independence.

The majority of young people considered for placement at Fortune Avenue will have a background of social services involvement, may have endured multiple, unsuccessful placements, and may be situated out of their local area due to their challenging conduct or for their own protection.

Our 16+ Supported Accommodation home aims to provide young people a smooth transition from care to semi-independence. The home will offer supported accommodation in a shared living environment on the premises (Fortune Avenue), which is not restricted to accommodating looked-after children and care leavers.

Specifically, the accommodation will comprise of shared accommodation, the child or young person have their own bedroom

and may have their own bathroom and share communal areas (e.g. living room/s, kitchen).

Ascension Social Care will ensure that our support and accommodation adhere to the following key principles:

- Young people feel safe and secure in their living environment and broader surroundings
- Young people's voices are respected, heard, and advocated for, and they understand the impact of the support they receive
- Young people have confidence that the adults supporting and understanding them possess the requisite skills to collaborate effectively in meeting their needs.
- Young people have space to feel proud of and live in comfortable, well-maintained, and stable accommodation
- Young people receive high-quality, bespoke support that sustains their health and well-being.

Placements at Fortune Avenue will be carefully and meticulously planned, reflecting the view that semi-independent accommodation is the preferred and most realistic option for the young person and a positive choice. We at Ascension Social Care firmly believe that we can guarantee supported accommodation which shall be a positive experience, and the conduct of the staff and engagement with our young people shall realise this.

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Our purpose at **Ascension Social Care** is to provide a warm, welcoming, nurturing, and stable environment. This is designed to positively promote the well-being and safety of 'Looked After' children and young people for whom supported accommodation is the best option.

Ascension Social Care is a home providing medium to long term care. Emergency Admissions can be accepted on a pre-planned basis, as they can respect services and short breaks schemes. The Looked after Children (LAC) Placement Plan process will be determined by individual needs and circumstance as defined in each young person's Care Plan.

- Placement planning meeting/review to be held within 72 hours of admittance.
- LAC Review 28 days later with comprehensive reports as set out below to identify needs and confirm placement suitability for the young person.
- LAC Reviews take place at 6 monthly intervals thereafter or more frequently according to individual need or changing circumstances.

The Home Manager, together with staff, will produce a report for the above meetings relating to

Every Child Matters (ECM) framework for Looked after Children which would include the following:

Enjoy and achieve - leisure activities, hobbies and interests and the achievement of personal goals.

☐ Stay Safe – risk taking to aid learning, independent living skills and self-awareness.

☐ Be Healthy – regular medical checks, medication reviews, healthy lifestyles, promotion of physical and mental well-being.

MANAGER STATEMENT

At Ascension Social Care, we pride ourselves on being a safe place that meets young people's needs when they cannot be with their family for whatever reason.

This can be for a few months or many years, and we offer exemplary care, support and accommodation that our young people can be proud to call home, all within a nurturing and caring environment.

We will go above and beyond to make everyone feel welcome, and we have private spaces where our young people can meet with their circle of support. We aspire to deliver the best care and support for our children and young people, thus giving them the confidence to live contented and happy lives with transition into adulthood as part of our bespoke package.

Our dedicated team endeavour to be fully flexible to meet our young person's needs, however challenging. We simply love what we do, and we want the best for those we support and care for. There will be a

genuine feeling of warmth, kindness and nurturing in our homes.

ACCOMMODATION & SUPPORT OFFERED AT FORTUNE AVENUE

Fortune Avenue is a 4-bedroom terraced house, with one en-suite bedroom and three smaller rooms for the young people. The home has a spacious living/dining area for young people to relax and enjoy watching television or playing games. There is a kitchen on the first floor, opposite the lounge/dining room which overlooks an expansive garden area. There are two bathrooms and three toilets which are equipped with shower and sink facilities. The upstairs bathroom is significantly larger and also contains a bathtub.

The placement is located in a quiet area of Edgware near to the shops, gym, local recreational centres, and Edgware Community Hospital, providing an ideal location in terms of promoting independent living skills. The provision has a communal ambience, enabling residents to integrate easily into the community.

The home is not equipped to accommodate physical disabilities.

There is a good-sized rear garden. The fire meeting area is located at the front of the property which is visible to all and will regularly be explained to young people and visitors to the home.

The front of the property benefits from ample parking for the house, team members and visitor vehicles without necessitating parking on the road outside the property. The home has cultivated positive relationships with the neighbours.

Young people placed at the home may exhibit challenging behaviour and emotional difficulties and including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), opposition defiant disorder (ODD), attachment difficulties, autism, mental health issues or other complex health needs. Some young people in the home will frequently have endured abuse or neglect prior to arrival, resulting in behaviours such as self-harm and difficulties trusting adults and forming healthy relationships.

We at Ascension Social Care aim to provide young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties a kind, caring and nurturing home environment where they can grow and develop. We will collaborate with professionals to support our young people in becoming self-aware and beginning to address any underlying trauma, loss, neglect and rejection they may have experienced.

Our primary focus will be working with our young people to prepare them for independent living, employment, education and training.

Fortune Avenue accommodation is a:

- Shared accommodation/group living (non-ring-fenced provision)
- Young people have their own bedroom, may have their own bathroom, and share communal areas (e.g. living room, kitchen).
- This provision may support care leavers aged 18+
- In addition to being registered to support looked-after children and care leavers 16-17, this provision may also provide accommodation for people aged 18+ and who are not care-experienced.

The provision benefits from excellent transport connections. Furthermore, the Edgware Bus Garage operates numerous routes that enable intra-city travel. These transportation options contribute to the town's appeal as a residential area, combining the tranquillity of suburban living with the convenience of urban accessibility.

Each young person has access to a furnished property with bedding, kitchen equipment, white goods and Wi-Fi. Food and toiletries can be accessed in an emergency. To maintain health and safety standards, we regularly review our premises and conduct an annual location assessment to ensure the provision is safe and appropriate, considering the views of relevant stakeholders. We ensure that all aspects of our supported accommodation provision are adequately covered by insurance and meet health, safety, water and fire regulations. These include fire risk assessments, water legionella assessments and daily, monthly and quarterly assessments and inspections, and monthly property inspections that check for all Health and Safety issues.

2. ETHOS, AIMS AND OUTCOME

Ascension Social Care's ethos is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where all our young people's welfare is promoted, and they are cared for in a manner that helps them develop positively and progress. Our home shall provide a consistent, nurturing and caring environment using a professional approach to maintaining boundaries and realistic expectations, to allow healthy and positive relationships to build between the staff team and our young people.

We aim to be proactive in seeking and establishing a true and clear picture of each young person's unique and specific needs and wishes before moving into our homes. We recognise that gathering information and a picture of the young person can be challenging; however, knowing the details about their character, individuality and what makes them special and unique is crucial to success for the individual

placement. We shall involve the individual circle of support with clear communication channels in place.

We shall provide robust advocacy for the young people ensuring that their voices are prominent and influential. We shall appropriately challenge decisions where we feel that these are not in the best interest of the young person, making clear our rationale and views. Where a young person expresses dissatisfaction or wishes to make a representation, we shall work with that young person to help them identify a way forward.

With the individual at the forefront, we design an individualised care and risk plan that demonstrates both the broader, longer-term goals as well as the shorter-term day-to-day care practice. We aim to encourage the young people to take ownership and invest in their plans. They will only achieve this if they are 'connected' and involved in this plan. Our plans are developed in collaboration with the young person, the team surrounding the young person, and any other available information. All targets are SMART, and we ensure that we can monitor progress within the plan.

Safeguarding our young people is paramount, and therefore risk assessments must be clear, detailed and effective, with defined roles for staff and the professionals involved in risk management strategies. We believe that young people should be supported to manage risk where this is appropriate and feasible. Each young person is instrumental in helping us understand how we can collectively manage and mitigate any risks.

We utilise key working and one-to-one working to assist our young people in understanding their concerns and developing strategies with them to minimise risks and keep themselves secure. The young person's support network will be kept informed of any incidents or new potential risks, whilst all risk assessments remain live working documents to ensure they are continually updated.

We aim to support our young people to successfully navigate significant changes and challenges. We strive to develop enterprising strategies and positive relationships, and encourage young people to assume greater control over their lives.

With staff serving as role models, we aim to assist our young people in forming and maintaining meaningful and beneficial relationships with one another and those significant to them. We understand the significance of the wider community and how these young people may feel marginalised. We utilise these opportunities to encourage them to understand the diversity of cultures and beliefs within wider communities,

and leverage these experiences to discuss and gain insights into becoming a productive and valued member of the community.

The use of diversity days to celebrate different cultures will be evident within the home, and the young people will have input into what they would like to express around this.

Staff interaction with young people will be sensitive, readily available, reliable, warm, responsive and consistent. In this manner, we aspire for young people to have a sense of belonging in a stable and caring environment. We aim for our young people to understand their life story while exploring their identity and culture, cultivating their interest in life and their future. We aim for young people to be engaged in education, employment or training as age-appropriate. We shall support them to progress academically by collaborating with educational professionals. We aim for our young people to develop intellectual and creative skills through the accessible and stimulating environment in the home and via external activities.

Where our young people cannot manage mainstream education or have been excluded, we shall offer our alternative education programme (virtual education).

We aim for young people to be in good health and support everyone to register with a local general practitioner and dentist, and attend all health-related appointments. Staff shall offer to accompany all young people to every health appointment and support young people to become more independent, guiding them through the process of booking their own appointments. We shall emphasise the importance of nutrition and offer weekly cooking activities with menus to promote a balanced and varied diet. We will support young people to keep themselves healthy through exercise and or making use of local fitness centres.

Summarily, the aims of the service provision includes but is not limited to:

- Collaborate with each young person to implement the objectives of their written Child's Placement Plan and the placing authority Care Plan.
- Provide an environment in which children and young people can be encouraged to develop physically, psychologically, intellectually, and socially.
- Provide learning skills and preparation for independent living.

- Offer, support, friendship, encouragement, and enablement to the young people to help them to achieve the best of their ability and eventually move on to independent or supported living in the community.
- Provide the maximum opportunities for each young person to mature as an individual, to develop their own personal identity and accept responsibility for their own actions.
- Always promote everyday living skills of young people and encourage self-care and independent living skills.
- Provide an environment for young people in which they can assess themselves realistically and determine their own options.
- Preserve and support the young person's links with their own community, work in partnership with young people, parent (s), previous carers, and those with parental responsibility.
- Involve young people in decision-making as far as possible and reasonable.
- Ensure non-discriminatory working practices in accordance with our Equal Opportunities Policy

3. STAFFING

Our supported accommodation aims to provide stability and consistency for young people, ensuring continuous access to local services such as education and healthcare, and fosters the development of strong relationships within the community. The accommodation provided promotes positive self-esteem, protects against stigma, and supports young people in feeling confident about their opportunities.

At Fortune Avenue, there are 6 Project Workers who will support you with managing a tenancy, health, money and budgeting, education/training & employment, cultural and religious needs, how you feel, trust and hope and everything else that young people feel they need or want.

The staff cover different shifts throughout a 7-day week from 8am to 8pm and then hand over to our directly employed Night Concierges who are on site throughout the night. If anyone needs support during night hours, the Project Workers can be contacted on the telephone using our Standby/On-Call service. There is also a Specialist Project Worker and Local Service Manager who both work Monday to Friday and provide additional support to all young people and the staff team. On the rare occasion that a staff member is not available, young people have

access to Technology Enabled Living to call for support; the contact details are provided at sign-up and are displayed around the buildings at all times.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF REGISTERED PROVIDER AND NAME OF SERVICE MANAGER AND REGISTERED MANAGER

The name and address of the registered provider is:

Ascension Social Care Ltd

Address: 15 Fortune Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex. HA8 0FG

Tel: 0208 829 9812

Email: info@ascensionsocialcare.com

Responsible Individual: Esther Sonibe

Service Manager: Michael Ndlamini

Registered Manager: Michael Ndlamini

Residential Care Workers:

Bank Care Workers:

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE REGISTERED MANAGER

Registered Manager –

Managers details.....

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL

Responsible Individual –

Details about the RI.....

STAFF DETAILS, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

This can be found on the training matrix available on request.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAFF SUPERVISION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Ascension Social Care is committed to meeting supervision standards as set out in Regulation 27 of the Children's homes regulations 2001 and Ofsted standard 28.

In practice this means that staff will receive regular formal and informal supervision from their Line Manager. All staff will receive a minimum of one and a half hours' formal supervision every month. We will work towards this standard being met every three weeks, in line with the Rota pattern or more frequently if necessary.

All new staff will receive one-week induction training followed by formal supervision sessions every fortnight for their first six months of employment. Bank staff will receive supervision once every eight shifts worked in the home. All supervision will be recorded and signed by both parties and copies kept in a secure place.

All staff will be required to complete a written record about any concerns they may have.

The Home Manager will provide direct on-site monitoring and informal supervision to augment formal supervision. The Home Manager will receive supervision from their Line

Manager on a three-weekly basis.

Training & Development

All core staff will receive at minimum training in:

First Aid

Fire Safety

Safeguarding Children

Restorative Justice

Physical Intervention

Medication

Food hygiene

Health and Safety

Equality and Diversity

Level 3 CQF / Diploma in childcare

4. WHO WE SUPPORT

We provide supported accommodation for looked-after children and care leavers aged 16+ who have relatively high or increasing levels of independence, who are ready to gain further skills to prepare for adult living, and who do not need the degree of care or type of environment provided in a children's home or foster care. For young people ready for it, high-quality supported accommodation that provides a nurturing and protective environment can be a place where they can thrive and prepare for greater independence. Within this remit, we consider placements of young people with diverse needs including:

- Autistic spectrum disorder
- Attachment Disorder
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Mental health issues
- Challenging behaviour
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Self-harming behaviours
- Gang involvement

- Criminal behaviour

5. LOCATION OF THE HOME/ACCOMMODATION

The supported accommodation is located in a quiet area of Edgware near to the shops, gym, local recreational centres, and Edgware Community Hospital, providing an ideal location in terms of promoting independent living skills. The provision maintains a communal atmosphere, facilitating residents to assimilate seamlessly into the community.

Edgware is chiefly recognised as a shopping and residential district. It is identified in the London Plan as one of the capital's 35 major centres, which highlights its significance in the broader urban framework of London.

Edgware's community spirit is reflected in its numerous cultural and recreational facilities. The town library functions as a cultural hub, providing a wealth of resources and hosting community events. These waterways are not only picturesque but also contribute to the local ecosystem.

The address of the home is:

**15 Fortune Avenue
Edgware. HA8 0FG**

Edgware enjoys excellent transport links. Furthermore, the Edgware Bus Garage operates numerous routes that enable intra-city travel. These transportation options contribute to the town's appeal as a residential area, combining the tranquillity of suburban living with the convenience of urban accessibility.

6. SUPPORTING THE LINGUISTIC & CULTURAL NEEDS OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE HOME.

When practicable, young people are supported to maintain their existing arrangements for religious instruction and observance.

Each young person's cultural, linguistic and religious beliefs are supported by the staff team. The matching process performed at the commencement of the placement ensures that the staff have the skills, understanding and ability to meet these needs. Therefore, we invest heavily in the matching process. Young people for whom English is not their first language will be encouraged to continue to use their birth language as well as English and where necessary we will arrange for translators, which will be arranged through family if appropriate, local community groups or translators.

The staff team will always actively support young people in pursuit of their beliefs, whether that is, for example, by providing a certain choice of food or clothing. Staff will support each young person in following their chosen religion, for example through attendance at a place of worship or the observance of certain days.

Staff training in equality and diversity, discussion in team meetings as well as individual supervision will underpin the approach to supporting the individual needs to our young people. The activities calendar will reflect the various religious festivals that occur during the year so staff can support young people who wish to celebrate them.

We will ensure that young people can personalise their room and that the quality of care promotes their individual identity. Any complaints relating to equality and diversity will be taken seriously.

The processes we have in place monitor compliance with equality and diversity and staff are trained to communicate effectively with the young person in our home.

LGBTQ+, Additional Educational Needs as well as diversity of backgrounds are all part of how we monitor and discuss diversity.

We shall support young people to be open-minded and tolerant to differences; to gain an understanding of diverse cultures and beliefs, we shall engage with the local community so our young people can access others with similar backgrounds and beliefs, such as church and youth groups.

Where we need to be more proactive or directive in challenging discrimination, this shall be addressed through specific and targeted key working sessions, and all staff will be trained in equality and diversity.

7. DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

Ascension Social Care takes any complaint very seriously. Staff are trained in complaint handling, and we have a robust complaints policy and procedure.

To make a formal complaint, any of our young people, professionals, parents or members of the public can make a complaint in writing to:

complaints@ascensionsocialcare.com

8. DETAILS OF HOW A PERSON OR ORGANISATION INVOLVED IN THE CARE OR PROTECTION OF A CHILD CAN ACCESS THE HOME'S CHILD PROTECTION POLICY OR THE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

All child protection policies and the behaviour management policies are centrally held and can be accessed by contacting the operations manager.

Patrick Atomon(operations@ascensionsocialcare.com)

9. THE VIEWS, WISHES AND FEELINGS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

At Ascension Social Care, we aim to be effective with the active and meaningful involvement of our young people; listening and hearing what they say, and responding to their views, wishes and feelings is paramount to their care and support.

We aim to ensure that all the young people have a voice, no matter how small or big their concern or request is, we will ensure they are heard, and that they feel valued.

The young person's views about the quality of their support are sought throughout the support planning and placement planning process, during house meetings, key-work sessions and during their statutory reviews.

The young people are encouraged to consult and provide feedback to their Independent Reviewing Officer and Social Worker. At Ascension Social Care, our young people have free access within each home to make suggestions to all staff members, including the Operations Manager, Registered Service Manager, Support Manager and Team Leader.

Young People are also invited to take part in the following to share their views, wishes and feelings:

- House Meetings
- Weekly Key Work Sessions
- Suggestion boxes
- Input into monthly group activities covering topics such as CSE, LGBTQ+ (These topics will be led by the young people in the placement)

Staff aim for our young people to form healthy and positive attachments with them, thereby giving them a feeling of belonging and openness. This enables our young people's views, wishes and feelings and their experience of the quality of support are not only listened to but acted upon.

Key working provides each young person with a formal mechanism to express themselves as well as have their views and comments recorded. In addition, young people's collective views are gathered in formal and informal house meetings.

We encourage our young people to identify agenda items and themes, and endeavour to make these meetings meaningful and engaging occasions, often linking them with a social event featuring a meal of their choice.

We also understand that young people do not always feel comfortable in more formal settings; therefore, we may have a house meeting during a meal, on a day out or in other less formal settings. We believe the most important outcome is to engage the young people in effective dialogue, and we will always adapt and innovate our ideas to achieve this.

Young people are involved and consulted in relation to all aspects of their lives more formally through full involvement in all meetings about their care and in particular statutory reviews.

All young people are offered an advocate to represent their views. Staff will also consult with the placing social worker and Independent Review Officer (IRO) to obtain the views of young people as well as parents if appropriate.

Staff will ensure our young people know how to access the internal complaints procedure and will take complaints forward on their behalf.

Our approach to anti-discriminatory practice is underpinned by our equality, diversity and inclusion policy. We maintain an inclusive

environment and will ensure there is no discrimination through direct discrimination, discrimination arising from disability, indirect discrimination, and failure to make reasonable adjustments, harassment, or victimisation. This forms part of the ethos of the home and is integral to our quality monitoring processes.

Staff will inform young people of their right to speak to someone independent of the home such as their IRO, Social Worker, Advocate or OFSTED.

Staff shall ensure our young people are aware of their entitlement to a personal advisor at age 16 and their right to a pathway plan.

10. EDUCATION

We are committed to promoting young people's educational achievement and ensuring we support them to fulfil their full academic potential. We acknowledge that many of the young people in our care have experienced very little consistent education previously. It is crucial that we build their self-esteem and support them in recognising that, with some motivation on their part, they can achieve and take greater responsibility for their own future outcomes.

Where young people are excluded, we shall offer alternative provision through Ascension Social Care AP, who shall support them to return to mainstream education where appropriate. Ascension Social Care AP have established relationships with Barnet LA and the SEN department over the last 5 years, and we collaborate with a number of local mainstream and specialist schools.

Staff will support the young person's education, health and care plan (EHCP) that outlines the young person's special educational, health and social care needs. They shall ensure that the specific, detailed, and quantified points in the plan, which they can contribute to, are met to the highest standard. Staff shall challenge others when they believe that professional practice is falling short of the expected standard and having a negative impact on their lives. Staff shall attend the statutory review of the EHCP and provide their perspective on how to further support the young person.

Staff may request an EHCP if they deem it to be in the best interest of the young person. Should a local authority decline to make an assessment, staff will consider the reasons and if not satisfied will respectfully lodge an appeal for a "refusal to assess" hearing. Staff shall work with other professionals to obtain a formal diagnosis of the special educational

needs and/or reports from other professionals such as an education psychologist.

Staff will support young people to develop their independent study skills. This shall entail providing the requisite resources and space within the home so that young people may study.

Here they shall develop an understanding of the barriers to learning and help each young person appreciate the importance of a good education. Staff shall ensure that schools follow statutory guidance on exclusions and any special provision for looked-after children.

Each young person's Personal Education Plan (PEP) is an integral part of their care plan, and these arrangements are agreed upon admission or as soon as possible thereafter. The social worker and school, in conjunction with the home's manager, will ensure this is addressed and influenced by the young person and key worker. Staff will report to and attend the PEP reviews, and ensure a copy of the PEP is retained in the home, accessible to staff.

Where young people are new to the area, our team will liaise with the team around the young person, the LA and any other professionals regarding the application to a local mainstream or SEN school. Where young people are already attending an educational provision at the time of their admission, every effort shall be made to ensure no interruption in their existing provision.