

Brighter Stays

Statement of Purpose



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Quality and Purpose of Care

1.1 A statement of the purpose including our ethos, core aims and function:

Brighter Stays is a supported accommodation provider. We support varying needs which may include:

- Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD), as a result of early life trauma, complex or challenging behaviour, neglect, and family breakdown or disruption
- Mental health issues
- Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Moderate learning disabilities
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)
- Self-harming behaviours
- Low level sexualised behaviour

At Brighter Stays, we welcome young people from diverse backgrounds, providing high-quality care in a warm and nurturing environment. Our core objective is to offer individualised care packages that foster effective attachments and longer-term stable placements. We encourage young people to take ownership of their plans and invest in their future.

Our ethos emphasises a journey shared by both young people and staff. We are passionate about bridging the gap as young people transition into adulthood, ensuring a genuine feeling of warmth and kindness in our homes. Our team, with varied backgrounds and skills, enhances the lives of the young people in our care.

We aim to develop life skills such as budgeting, cooking, and communication, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Our ultimate vision is to empower young people to reach their full potential, providing a safe space for growth, stability, and resilience.

Our Admission process:

1. The initial enquiry will come from a telephone call or email from the placing Social Worker or commissioning officer. If we have a vacancy, they will be asked to send through a referral form.
2. The Service Manager and Nominated Individual will review the referral information to establish if Brighter Stays may be an appropriate placement. We will consider the specific individual needs of the young person being referred and those in placement already alongside any risk factors.
3. Further information may be requested to inform the decision and an initial meeting will be convened.
4. If the decision is that the young person may be suitable a matching assessment will be completed. The outcome of this assessment will inform if a placement will be offered.
5. The young person, Social Worker and/or the family members (if appropriate) will be invited to visit the home (unless the placement is an emergency.)
6. The Service Manager and Nominated Individual will arrange the transition plan and moving in arrangements with the young person and their Social Worker.

1.2 The category of supported accommodation offered

Our supported accommodation is split between 2 homes in Stotfold, Bedfordshire. We provide individualised support for young people aged 16+ of all genders in a group setting. Non ring fenced, shared accommodation – Both homes are designed to accommodate up to 3 young people.

Looked after children and care leavers aged 16+ live in the accommodation with other young people who are care experienced.

1.3 The services we provide for the young people and desired outcomes

Each young person's package is bespoke and based on their individual needs and the required outcomes of their pathway and future plans.

The aims of the homes:

- To provide a safe and enjoyable environment for young people, in which young people feel comfortable and proud to call their own.
- Offer levels of support which can be increased and decreased, as required and in consultation with the placing authority to meet individual needs, especially for young people with learning disabilities and/or disabilities.
- Assess and document the young person's daily living skills to establish their level of independence and support needs.
- Provide key working sessions to help young people build up skills in areas that require extra provision/support until a safe level of independence is achieved.
- To assist young people to achieve positive change and reach their full potential.
- To offer a high-quality service enabling young people to either return to family living or live more independently .

All young people will receive support with: Accessing local community resources; Accessing and registering with health service; Self-care skills; Independent living skills; Healthy living skill and support; Education, training and employment; Time with family; Mental health and wellbeing; Religious and cultural needs; Substance misuse support; Self-harm and safety; Positive behaviour management; Reduction in offending; Financial well-being skills; Obtaining independent, accommodation and Accessing and maintaining a tenancy.

The homes are staffed daily with sleep-in and management on call to facilitate advice or rapid response, as required.

Staffing ratios ensure that all young people receive levels of support in accordance with their support plans and support needs.

The staff team works systemically and collaboratively with the young people's network. We work closely with families, local authorities and other multi agencies involved in the

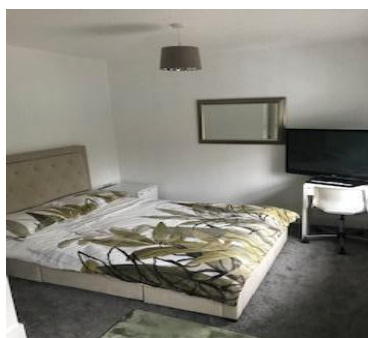
care of each young person. We will set goals and provide support to help each young person reach their full potential at their pace.

We have a tailored UASC service which includes the following additional support;

- Education/English Language/lessons enrolment
- Biometric enrolment and Home Office screening
- NHS registration/immunisation program
- Initial health assessments
- Establishing legal representation/Asylum application and Home Office interview support
- Social and cultural awareness/support with religious and cultural needs

1.4 Accommodation and facilities offered:

Brighter Stays: Hitchin House and Fairfield Lodge are modern 4-bedroom semi-detached houses . Each house is made up of single occupancy bedrooms with either an en-suite or shared bathroom, comfortable living room, fully functional communal kitchen and garden with patio area.



Each young person will have their own private bedroom, with enough space to store personal items, smart TV, personal safe, computer desk and chair for bedroom area and soft furnishing that complement the room. The young person will be provided with bedding, towels and personal hygiene products where required. We encourage our young people to personalise their room so that they take ownership of their personal space. In addition to the bedrooms available for young people there is 1 dedicated sleeping area for staff.

The property has an open plan living and dining area, with ample seating and space for recreational purposes as well as any classes or tuition the young persons may be undertaking. The accommodation has secure internet access and access to communal TV and games.



Brighter Stays is located in Stotfold, Bedfordshire. Stotfold has many country walks and recreational parks, alongside being the home of football and rugby clubs. Stotfold is a short drive or bus ride to the centre of Hitchin and other nearby towns, such as Stevenage, Letchworth, Bedford and Biggleswade.

The homes are easily accessible to local amenities such as the GP, optician, dentist, shops, gym, places of worship, schools and colleges.

The buildings have Ring doorbells which capture the front and back entrances within the parameters of the property, this is covered in our CCTV Policy.

We understand that permission for any monitoring systems and identified adaption restrictions are required from the placing authority or parents and consents will be kept on the young people's individual file.

We have a fire procedure that we follow and regular drills. We have on-going health and safety checks. We are compliant with electrical safety standards.

1.5 Registered Address

The registered provider is Brighter Stays Limited

The principal office address is: Brighter Stays Limited, Croft Chambers, 11 Bancroft, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1JQ

Company Number: 13678223

Service Manager: Emmah Nyakurerwa, Emmah.n@brighterstays.org

Nominated Individual: Jess George, Jess@brighterstays.org



Jess has worked with families in various settings over the past 28 years, including as a support worker, housing officer and parenting practitioner. She has been an Ofsted registered childcare provider since 2017 and providing care for children aged 3-12 years. Jess has a wealth of experience working with children and young people and is driven to supporting and improving the lives of young people.



Emmah has worked within the childcare sector as both a childcare/residential care assessor and schoolteacher and college lecturer for many years. She has also worked with young people with learning difficulties prior to now working with young people in a supported accommodation setting. Emmah's passion is working with children and young people, and she has a very hands-on approach which promotes good relationships and outcomes.

1.6 Organisational Structure

The Service manager and Nominated individual have the overall responsibility for the operation and functioning of the homes. The team is also made up of support workers including seniors and a compliance/recruitment consultant.

Staff members are responsible and accountable for the day to day running of the homes and ensuring everyone's safety and wellbeing

All staff members have a current enhanced DBS, access to training and regular formal supervision. Further staff support is provided through weekly team meetings, reflective group discussions which all staff are expected to attend and daily handovers.

A management or senior staff will provide on-call support for out of hours emergencies and incidents.

Section 2: Views, wishes and feelings

2.1 Young people's rights and views

Young persons placed will receive a written agreement which outlines their rights, along with the terms of the supported accommodation with details of how to make a complaint.

Young people's views are central in all we do at Brighter Stays. The young people's views and opinions will be gathered as part of informal discussions and formally recognised via monthly house meetings. We also have suggestion boxes where the young people can voice their wishes, and this can be done anonymously if needed.

The young persons placed with Brighter Stays will have an allocated key worker who will devise a support plan together with the young person which will be shared with their network as appropriate.

Young will be involved in the recruitment process and giving feedback regarding staff and the quality of care they receive. The feedback will be used for individual progression and service improvement.

Brighter Stays promotes all the children's rights as listed in the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child.

Young people will be provided with a guide with contact information of other services they can use to express their views and access additional support.

2.2 Young people's entitlements

The young person's keyworker and their support network will work with them to ensure they are aware of what they are entitled to while at Brighter Stays and upon leaving. The young person will be supported to access the services and support available to them and advocate on their behalf as necessary.

The homes will have Leaflets/information available on external services and support.

2.3 Positive outcomes

An initial assessment will be carried out prior to or shortly after placement to assess the young person's individual needs. These will be developed into a support which will be informed by the young person's Pathway Plan. Each young person will be issued a Moving-on workbook which they will complete together with staff. This will cover independence skills, health, education, social and emotional, enjoyment and achievement, wishes and feelings along with spiritual and cultural needs.

The support plan and moving on workbook will be kept under constant review with progress recorded and additional support provided where required.

External support will be requested where required through a referral to those agencies to include but not limited: CAMHS, educational support, interpreters, drug and alcohol agencies.

The team around the young person will be the support network to support the young person to enable them to break through any barriers, achieve positive outcomes and reach their potential.

Section 3: Education, Health and Independence

3.1 Education, Training and/or Employment

The homes will ensure all its young people will have access to education, training and/or employment which will be in line with their needs, views and wishes. Brighter Stays staff will work together with the Local Authority to determine the most suitable education provision for each young person.

Staff will support young people to enrol at the identified provision, work with the Virtual School, attend Personal Educational Plan (PEP) meetings and support with homework. Some children may have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) – the home will follow the plan and work with all professionals involved.

Brighter Stays values young people's differences and recognises that attendance and education provision may not be suitable for everyone. In these circumstances, staff will encourage and empower the young people to participate in training, apprenticeships and/or employment.

3.2 Health Needs

The physical, emotional and mental health of our young people is of paramount importance. We actively promote a healthy lifestyle, participation in recreational activities and each individual's emotional wellbeing. Resilience and attachment research have emphasised the importance of creating a secure base for the young person where they can feel safe and able to try new experiences and activities. We believe this contributes towards the development of a young person's self-esteem and identity, as well as building appropriate social and group relationships.

We aim for all young people to be in good health and support them to register with the local GP, opticians, and dentist and support them to make and attend appointments until they have developed the independence skills to do so unsupported.

Some of our young people may require medication for various reasons. Each child placed will have an individual risk assessment in place to support them to manage their medication. However, there may be times where support is required for a time limited period.

The young people's support plan will address their physical, mental and sexual health needs. This may include staff supporting them to work with external agencies such as Children and Adolescent Mental Health Team (CAMHS)/Adult Mental Health Team (AMHT) and sexual health services.

Staff also encourage engagement with outside services to tackle smoking, alcohol and substance use where applicable.

3.3 Independence and moving on

Every young person will have a support plan and Moving-on workbook tailored to their specific needs. The young person's keyworker will work together with the young person and their support network to review their Pathway Plan and agree to a moving on plan. This will include practical and emotional support, crisis management, transition and outreach plan as appropriate.

Section 4 Positive Relationships

4.1 Anti-discriminatory Practice

We have inclusive environments and will ensure that there is no direct discrimination or discrimination arising from disability, sexuality, ethnicity or any other characteristic. No young person or members of their families will be discriminated against on grounds of their race, sexual orientation, gender, culture or ethnic background whilst in the home. All staff will practise in an anti-discriminatory manner and encourage and educate young people to be inclusive of their peers and staff. We will support young people to be open and tolerant to differences, to gain an understanding of different cultures and beliefs and treat everyone fairly.

All discrimination will be challenged, training provided, and a proactive approach will be taken through specific and targeted key work sessions and all staff will be trained in equality and diversity.

4.2 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Brighter Stays aims to provide homes for young people that are safe and enjoyable to live in where individuals value and respect one another and develop positive relationships.

Religious, cultural and linguistic needs will be identified through the referral process and formulation of the support plan. Staff will support young people to attend religious and cultural activities in line with their views and wishes.

Staff will be sensitive to the dietary needs, religious days and places of worship for the young person. Staff will undertake their own research as necessary to enable them to provide better support.

Young people whom English is not their first language will be encouraged to use their birth language as well as English and where necessary we will arrange for interpreters.

Young people will also receive support and advice on equality and diversity. We do this for example by celebrating Eid, Christmas, Easter, as well as cooking foods from around the world and having a diverse team and a range of other ways. In the event that a young person does not wish to participate in any of these festivals, their wishes will be respected.

4.3 Complaints Process

Brighter Stays is committed to providing the highest level of services to young people, their families, and the accommodating authorities. We have a comprehensive complaints

procedure which forms part of the young person's induction process and is detailed in the Young Person's Guide.

A copy of the procedure is available upon request. Any complaints should be directed to the service manager unless the complaint involves the service manager and therefore it should be directed to the nominated individual.

Brighter will review any complaints to continually develop the service provision.

Section 5 Protection of Children

Safeguarding Process

Brighter Stays is committed to providing a safe home environment and ensuring all young people in its care are protected from harm. Brighter Stays have detailed and comprehensive safeguarding policies. Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation Training is provided as well as Online Child Protection Training for both staff and our young people.

The DSLs are the Nominated Individual and Registered Service Manager.

An annual review (or sooner if appropriate) of the location takes place to ensure we effectively assess the risks for all children placed.

All incidents, disclosures and complaints are recorded and reported to the necessary external agencies and professionals as a matter of procedure to safeguard the young person in question.

At Brighter Stays we provide supportive learning and living environments for our young people. Our environments will work towards a nurturing culture and the support/training put in place moulds the way our staff will develop strategies building positive relationships with children/young people. Dignity and respect are always paramount.

We provide several means of celebrating achievements and good behaviour. We work on a positive approach towards behaviour and will attempt to diffuse negative behaviours with a view to rewarding and acknowledging as much positive behaviour as possible. We strongly promote calm, nurturing homes with trusting relationships creating an environment that is conducive for supporting children and young people to regulate their emotions and communicate their feelings in a healthier way.

We recognise that by virtue of the trauma, abuse, maltreatment and neglect suffered, upon admission, young people may have developed maladaptive strategies to survive

and cope. We have rules and boundaries in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both staff and young people.

The statement will be provided to the regulating body and accommodating authority/authorities and reviewed annually, with the involvement of the young people or when required and appropriate. All revised copies will be sent to: CIECSS within 28 days of the revision.

Monitoring and Review

Prepared By	Emmah Nyakurerwa	
Date Implemented	28/03/2024	
Policy Revisions	Date of Review	Reviewed By:
	28/06/2024	Emmah Nyakurerwa

Monitoring Sheet – Staff

Please read and sign to say the policy has been read and understood. It is the responsibility of the reader to ensure understanding and to seek support and guidance if this is not the case.

Name	Signature	Date
