

The Hermitage
Residential Institution
Twyford
RG10 9EJ

Location Risk Assessment

May 2025



LOCATION RISK ASSESSMENT

THE HERMITAGE, 65 LONDON ROAD, TWYFORD, RG10 9EJ

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8-18

1. Introduction - Legislative background & Our Responsibility
2. Description & Location of Residential institution for young people.
3. Risks & Risk Management
4. Security of the premises
5. The immediate surrounding area
6. The local town of Twyford

1. Introduction Legislative background

All children, whether they are looked after or with their parents, need to feel safe in the area surrounding their home. Just as any parent would want to their child to live in a safe area, so too will the local authorities who place children into a children's service. Public and media attention has focused on the physical environments of children's services. However, it is not always straightforward to define a 'safe' area. Location safety can change rapidly and may depend on the vulnerabilities of particular individuals. [REDACTED]

A service may be located in an area with some local risks, and still be 'safe' if these are managed well, arrangements are made to keep children safe and placement decisions take account of these risks. Consideration of risks in a local area and what steps should be taken to mitigate these should be part of the care planning and placement decision process. Placing social workers should be responsible for assessing local risks and making judgments about safe locations before placing the child or young person.

The availability of support and services in the local area (e.g., education, health, CAMHS), as well as risk factors, should be considered before the placement is made.

Our Responsibility is to better equip staff members to make judgments about local risks, manage challenging behaviour and keeping vulnerable individuals safe is an important element. Workforce training, support and knowledge is therefore critical to the success in running a safe service.

It is acknowledged that there are limitations of mapping in capturing 'an all-encompassing picture' but considerations such as crime mapping could play a useful part in the wider assessments of risk. The supported living location assessment should be kept under review and amended to take into account any new risks as these are identified. The annual update will need to be proportionate and will not usually need to be carried out at the level of the initial assessment. Ofsted and CQC inspectors may take into account the quality of an existing service manager's location assessment when evaluating the effectiveness of the service's approach to safeguarding and promoting vulnerable individuals' welfare. It will be essential to talk with children in the service's care about the quality of life in the area to establish whether they feel safe and how to manage any risks they identify. Children will also be able to offer service managers valuable insights about the quality of local services. Following with Ofsted and CQC regulations, a review of the suitability of location will be completed on an annual basis.

2. Description of the Property –

This residential institution for young people is located at The Hermitage, 65 London Road, Twyford is a detached house close to the town centre of Twyford. The accommodation is decorated to a high standard, which is conducive to providing a friendly atmosphere. The maintenance and décor of the accommodation is an ongoing project, which the children are encouraged to have some input into.

We recognise the importance of the need for both support and privacy.

The accommodation has a dining area beside the kitchen and the older children will be supported to cook their meals, as part of promoting their independence. Trained Staff will provide meals for the younger children. The Residential institution has a fully fitted kitchen, with all the modern appliances.

Each bedroom will be single occupancy. Each child or young person is able to personalise their own space with such things as appropriate posters, pictures and personal possessions.

There are activities appealing to the younger children, such as Legoland within easy reach of Twyford.

Location of the Property This Residential institution for young people is located on London Road, 2 minutes from the town centre. The train station with easy 15 minutes walk and has good links to larger towns such as Reading, Slough and on to London. There is also a good local bus service.



3. Risks and Risk Management

Security - Risk of Unauthorized Visitors:

The Residential institution is positioned on a main road and is only accessed via electrically operated gates, with houses to the left and right of the home. It is a detached property with its own footpath and driveway. In front the property are tall hedges as its boundary, providing extra security and privacy for the children and young people. Surrounding the rest of the property is wooden fencing of various heights, which acts as a barrier to the neighbouring properties.

From the driveway, there is a clear view of the children and young people entering and leaving the property as well as its potential visitors either authorised or unauthorised. The front door entrance has a doorbell for the visitors to the property. At the entrance of the front door staff will meet and greet and ask the visitor if unknown or infrequent to provide ID to prove their visit and identity. The visitor will be asked to sign into the visitor's book with staff guiding them to ensure the book is completed accurately, logging time in and out: inclusive of the purpose of the visit. All staff members of the home are aware of the Safeguarding Policy and their responsibilities surrounding this. In addition, there will be night waking staff members on throughout the night which further ensures the security of the home is robust from unauthorised visitors. The home considers this risk as low.

Risks of Injury from Trips, Slips and Falls:

The home's entrance for the children and young people is of an even surface with a paved footpath, leading onto the levelled driveway. There is a welcoming mat to wipe the soles of shoes if the weather is wet. In the event that any children in the home cause spillage on the wooden flooring on the ground floor, staff will make use of the safety wet floor signage to prevent any slips.

The first floor is entirely carpeted, therefore the risk is low for trips, slips and falls. All staff will have undergone First Aid training as part of the induction process, giving immediate assistance if required from any injuries, using the homes first aid kit. The first aid trained staff will be aware if further medical treatment is required and then this will be sought. The service considers this risk as low.

Traffic and through routes: The Children's Residential institution is located on a busy main road in Twyford. The property has a driveway which currently accommodates at least 2 vehicles, for the use of staff members or visitors.

We will have our support staff to assist the children in using crossings and accessing the pedestrian areas in a safe and timely manner. For all independent and older children, they will have undergone adequate travel training, as part of their induction into their area. Therefore, the service considers the risk of injury by traffic to be low.

[REDACTED]

The service staff will educate the children and young people on the area when they initially move in. The service will assess the child or young persons' individual risks as supported by their risks assessment and will make an informed decision on independence. Any other individual being placed in the Residential institution will be done so after careful consideration, as to how compatible they would be with individuals already living in the service. Key work and educational discussions

surrounding the community will take place. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This educational information may be useful to a young person, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This service aims to support children to feel confident enough to discuss delicate or personal issues with staff members in a safe and supportive environment. The preventative measures will support children in accessing social media platforms via mobile phones, internet cafes and meeting points.

Any young people that arrive at this facilit [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the children will be adequately supported in-line with their risk assessment and behaviour management plan. The service considers this risk as low medium.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It is clear that the local area has many youth facilities and charities that are accessible to children and young people. By engaging children in these positive activities, this helps to tackle youth boredom and divert them away from crime, whilst simultaneously promoting youth creativity.

To prevent our young service users from engaging in criminal activity, we will be building relationships with the local police officers who visit schools and placements to educate young people on the dangers and consequences of criminal behaviour. This is in hopes of facilitating a more positive environment and a sense of community within the service users. The Residential institution staff will seize opportunities and use effective key-work to cover such topics. This risk of this area is identified as low medium.

Risk of Missing from Care:

There is good accessibility from the property to other parts of the town and local area, as well as to get to the local Twyford Railway Station. It is approximately a 13-minute journey by walking and accessing the local bus routes (6 mins approx.) to get to the Twyford Railway Station. The railway station serves the little community of Twyford in Berkshire with trains to London Paddington and Reading via the Elizabeth line where upon other connecting lines to the London Underground and other locations can be reached.

Preventative measures will be adopted by the service staff and keyworkers educating and supporting the children and young people to make safe choices and positively engage in independent time. The children residing at the Residential institution will be supported in relation to accessing independent time and how to manage the responsibilities of this, accessing public transport and using these networks as part of their development into independence, not abusing these services to place themselves at risk.

Further preventative measures can be adopted to reduce the risks by limiting independent time if staff have suspicions that a young person may be at risk of going missing from care. Independent time will be monitored by staff, having physical welfare checks on the young person and intermittent phone calls. These methods will discourage young people from going missing and supporting them to use their free time more positively. The service considers this risk as low medium.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Free Time Regarding the free time, the support worker and the young person can discuss and consider positive alternative options as to how they could spend their time, such as taking part in outdoor activities or going to local youth clubs. The service considers this risk as low.

Education All young people will be supported to attend education placements. In relation to education, professionals from educational placements are invited to attend reviews giving accurate reports on progress attendance and suitability of placement. These meetings always recognise areas of support to further enhance the capabilities/outcomes of the young person during their educational placements.