



***Together Stronger***  
Supporting Brighter Futures

STATEMENT



**Sea Breeze**

**260**

**Oyster mouth Road**

**Swansea**

**SA1 3UH**

## 260 SEA BREEZE

### LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATION

The home will provide support and accommodation for up to five children this may be reduced in accordance with CIW regulation and advise. The children and young people between the ages of eight and fourteen where living in a normal living arrangement becomes unavailable to them. Sea Breeze home is set in a desirable location in the heart of Swansea. Sea Breeze is set over-looking Swansea beach with outstanding views of the sea front and mumbles. Sea Breeze location is within walking distances of the city centre, accessibility to trains and buses along with Museum, theatre, leisure centre, out-door swimming pool, indoor Olympic swimming pool, cycle track, woodland walks, beach, cinema, gym, golf, tennis, rugby, football, cricket pitches all located on the doorstep of Sea Breeze.

Sea Breeze is located just outside the city centre with ease of accessibility to children services like Bays, Barnardo's, Career wales and many learning centres like YMCA also within walking distances.

Sea Breeze is only a five-minute drive from the world recognised Gower coast and its outstanding beaches, a short drive will also take you to the beautiful Brecon Beacons. Sea Breeze provides each child or young person with their own bedroom and on-suite.

### SERVICES AND OBJECTIVES

our main aim is to make sure all young people can live life to the fullest with daily support and guidance from staff on a one-to-one basis. The one-to-one support will be the foundations to provide a high-quality level of care and support which aids positive outcomes, to ensure the child and young people reach their full potential, achieve their goals and to prepare them for their future.

The location of the home provides excellent access to social activities in the community for example on the doorstep of the home there are cycle tracks, beech front walks, Olympic swimming pool, leisure centre, football, rugby, cricket, running, surfing and tennis clubs, library, bowling, cinema, fishing, museums, art galleries and much more. The purpose of only providing one to one support will help aid accessibility in interrogating children and young people in social activities and the community. It is essential that all children and young people are supported in the community and encouraged to participated in activities that will aid their development and help provide positive outcomes. The location of the home provides excellent accessibility for any child or young person, it is essential that children under local authority care are treated fairly and not discriminated against and given the opportunity to grow and develop with all that is accessible to them.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

We have tailored our bespoke services for the needs of the individual where they will have access of use of local businesses that provide a support network that includes counselling and threptic services. The bespoke service aims to provide these services through activities that will help develop rebuild confidence and self-esteem, whilst aiding health and wellbeing and social skills and interrogating into a positive community through activities like surfing, hiking and mind set workshops. Building resilience with children and young people will help provide positive outcomes and support the future of the community.

### **OUR AIMS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY**

The high level of support for children and young people in our care alongside our ethos and bespoke services will help support local activity centres, clubs and library. The children will be supported on a one-to-one basis in the community that will reduce the risks in the community that may present.

Approximately twenty-five internal and external jobs will be supported at full capacity of the home. The job vacancies will be supported by training and qualification in children and young people health and wellbeing to further develop careers and support employees that may live in the community. We will provide funding and training for staff in local approved centres that provide qualification in this sector.

The bespoke services we provide will support other local business develop by working together and increasing participation in their activity programs. Also, with the aim of encouraging all children from the community to join and take part in activity programs creating a community support network for positive experiences and outcomes for all.

### **PARKING AND ACCESS TO THE HOME**

We understand that parking facilities are limited in the community and some objects have raised worthy concerns in relation to the matter. We have completed an assessment to reduce the need for additional spaces. We currently have access to two off road parking spacing at the rear of the property. This will be used for two vehicles, to reduce any additional spaces needed we will make use of the two vehicles to transport staff to an allocated collection point for example bus and train station, home, car parks. In addition, we also have an agreement with a local transportation company that can also provide the same service in a highly unlikely event. Also, the location of the home is easily assessable via bus and walking distance from bus station. This would also strengthen local transportation companies by paying customers.

### **DEFINTION AND CLARITY**

We understand that objection have been made in regard to the change of use as some of the community have stressed, they feel it is not best suited. We would like to state our

organisation operate openly and would like to provide transparency to the community especially with concerns raised. We understand some of the objections stated are intentionally of a good nature and our organisation welcomes and respects all objections and hopefully we have provided more clarity in this statement of understanding how the service operates and our intentions. We would like to provide clarity on the service we provide but also respecting the potential services users and local community however, we would like to remind everyone involved in this process to remain respectful and refrain from comments and objections that have been unpleasant or discriminatory towards children and young people.

We also would like to say children and young people in local authority care have been widely scrutinised and made a target of in the media. We understand some services providers across the UK have been widely publicised due to children and young people within their care that have shown high risk behaviours and subsequently shown strain on local communities. It is important in this process that all children in care are not tarnished with the same brush that is portrayed in the media. We would like to say all children have the right to live in an environment that is safe and promotes their safety, health and wellbeing.

We are aware that some objects have perhaps speculated on the type of services users that will be accommodated that could add to the suggested problems the community faces. We have provided some points below that address the majority of objects raised.

- **We are not housing young offenders or individuals in the justice system**
- **We are not a rehabilitation centre for young people involved in drug abuse**
- **We are not a hostel or halfway house**
- **We are not supported lodgings for 16–18-year-olds**
- **We are not housing high risk individuals that could impact the community**

We would also like to state that we have risk assessments and policies in place to keep children and young people safe from harm. Our services are going to be provided for children and young people between the ages of eight and thirteen where normal living arrangements have failed to meet the basic needs of the child. We understand concerns that have been stated refer to issues in the local community, individuals in our care are provided one to one support at the home and within the community. The community see each year an abundance of families from Swansea and outskirts make use their local community by visiting the promenade and sea front where the home is situated. Our use of the community will be much like the tens of thousands of families that use the sea front for walks and bike rides and other activities. We believe that children in care should not be discriminated against due to circumstance or living arrangements. We also understand the community feels it has a significant drug related problem however, the city as a whole statistically suffers with the same issues. However, with project ADDER in place we as a community will see the drop in drug related crime as pledged by the government. The service we provide will not be of a nature that will add to the drug related issues across Swansea. There are many other service providers that operate within worse statical red zones in Swansea.

Finally, it is our job to ensure the children in our care are provided a safe, caring loving home that supports their needs. We are also looking to provide employment and training that will also support the community moving forward. We feel the location and services we provide will only be a positive factor to the community. We are committed to supporting the strains or objections of the community, we understand some individuals are rightly concerned about how we are going to operate and how it may impact them hopefully the community can gain some clarity from this statement and help identify some positives from it. By granting this application and the community supporting it, it will provide children of Swansea a home they can flourish and develop and have a starting chance of a bright future. By the number of concerns, objections and supports this application has received we can see that fundamentally the community is of a supportive nature that want the best of their community. This shows the foundation of the community is of a good nature. Hopefully by working together we can continue to create and build on the community spirit that is already there. We as a business will provide job opportunities and training also, we will support other local business in our day-to-day operations.

We hope this statement explains our intention and provides clarity to the community.

## Planning committee meeting and requested information

Following on from our planning committee meeting we would like to provide more information on the points raised during the meeting. We understand due to the nature of the business and its operations can be very complex we hope to provide additional information and clarity for understanding. During the last meeting there were a few objections or concerns that were raised that were not considered a planning issue. We have responded below to all concerns and points raised despite whether or not they are considered a planning issue, for complete clarity and understanding please take the time to read concerns and points raised in the meeting as we would like to move forward as direct as possible and thank you for your time.

## EDUCATION

What are the educational options in our care?

Option A – where the child is able to attend mainstream education this will be supported and encouraged. If the child attends a school already this placement will be continued and supported for the Swansea child.

If the child is from out of county for example Bridgend and attends education there, we would support and ensure continuity is maintained by transporting the child in their current educational facility.

Where the child is able to attend mainstream education but currently has no placement and is from out of county, we would source the nearest school that has availability.

**Who funds out of county children's education and what strains does this cause on Swansea services?**

Each child has an education identification number, the funding will follow the identification number to the child. It essentially becomes "funding" bums on seat scenario. In this instance no financial strain is on local authority.

**Overcrowding in schools will this cause strain?**

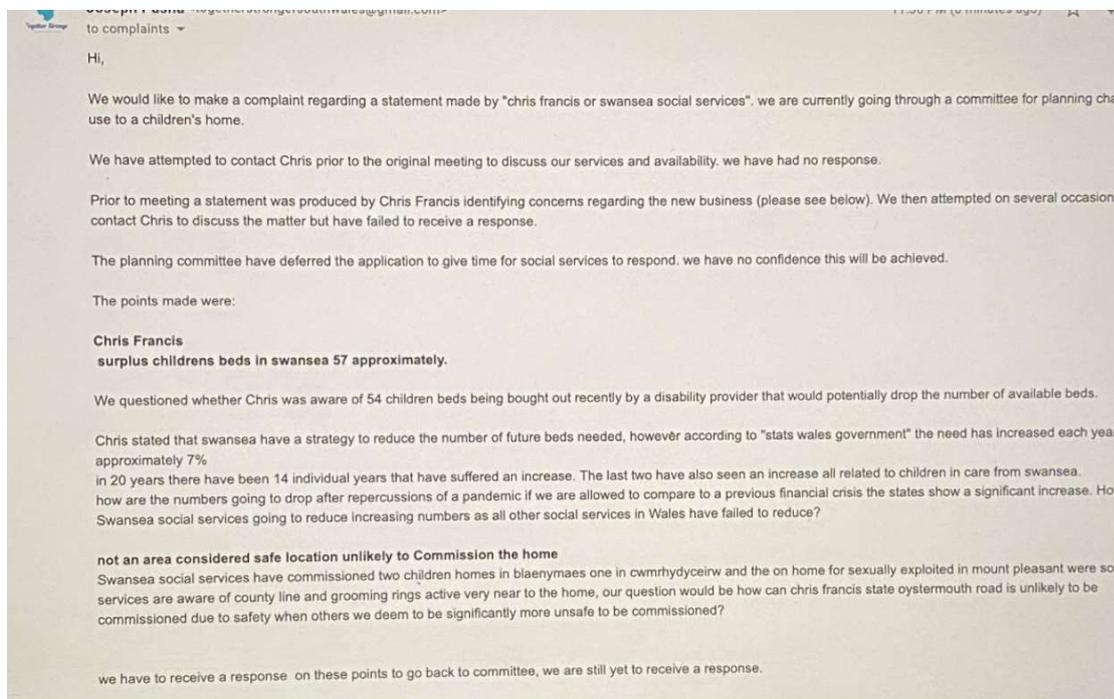
After conducting some research overcrowding in schools are primarily the desired schools' parents request and apply for, there are availability in less desired schools which we would support. Facts and figures on this are being collected by planning through the education department and this will be forwarded to us prior to meeting.

Option B- where the child has complex needs and cannot attend a mainstream education facility. Dependant on the needs of the child a suitable placement would be found.

Option C- in our experience we find that most children and young people that arrive at a placement with no education in place suffer the most due the time lapse before commencement in new education placement. As an organisation we aim to provide as many opportunities as possible to increase the number of positive outcomes to children and young people in our care. We have sourced and will provide qualified tutors that also have experience with complex needs and currently work in alignment with the curriculum for wales framework. This service will be available to all children in our care until alternative placement is arranged or until the individual leaves our care.

## Swansea social services

We have continued to attempt to gain response off Swansea social services regarding their points made in this application. At this point we can only provide you with a complaint made to Swansea social services regarding no response. Please read the complaint provided below this will help gain understanding of our points made also.



We have received a telephone call off social services on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April please see below of our findings.

### Point one, two, three – **Surplus amounts of beds and the aim to reduce the numbers**

We referred to the welsh government statistics on Swansea's increase in need of placements.

Social services response was they have put more funding into fosters care to reduce the numbers. We the obviously questioned how the increase has happened when running this new scheme and basically its currently ongoing and have not established a notable decline in children residential care due the scheme being new. We reflected on the 20 years Swansea social services data that shows increase in demand and have only shown 4 years of

a reduction in children needing placement. The last two years have shown an increase combined by approx. 14%. We understand that we live in unprecedented times and when we questioned how the pandemic would affect the number of placements in the future. We understand that this is quite impossible to answer due to the obvious nature of what the country has gone through, we would like to pass your attention to the increase during the financial crisis we reflected on the data that shown approx. a 30% increase in placements needed in one year of the financial crisis. This maybe the only comparison we have to date to evaluate some sort of trend. We obviously cannot guarantee there will be a 30% increase however I think we can all agree that there will be an increase in demand. We also requested data that would show during social services new foster placement scheme and funding what percentage of children have they identified that go into foster care and then have to be placed in residential, this question could not be answered. Where we stand in terms of this is we believe increasing the funding and introduction of the new foster placement scheme is an excellent way forward for Swansea and its children. however, as you increase the number of foster placements you will naturally require more residential placements to meet the needs of the child. Swansea social services suggest that there is a large demand for placements from areas just outside of Swansea.

**Point four – Cannot support children outside of Swansea demand on educational needs.**

We have been given data from Swansea education department on three schools local to the home showing unfilled spaces from January 2020 of a combined 239 spaces. Our question to social services was where the strains are. Social services commented on the funding aspect and costings to fund out of county children. We collected information regarding education and funding where each child is given an education number and the funding follows the child to the school or placement they are in, social services agreed this was the case. So, in simple terms the county of placing authority will be responsible for funding the child educational needs. In terms of where is the strain this could not be backed, and the point made suggests no validity.

**Point Five- unsafe area and unlikely to be commissioned by Swansea social services.**

We raised examples of what's considered worse areas Swansea social services have commissioned and asked about our area and how they have concluded it to be unsafe. The answer was they have collected no data or evidence to validate their statement and said they would just prefer a little more rural. We suggest about the number of amenities available on the doorstep of the home and social services said they haven't considered or refused the home as use of Swansea placements.

The Road and Safety
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In the meeting there was concerns over the road and safety for children. As state this is not an issue that concerns change of use as previously it was a dwelling that also could home children. However, we appreciate concerns over child safety and CIW who will regulate us will identify this as a concern and will decide whether we are able to manage the risks and

maintain safety for children. we also understand this may not put everybody objecting on these grounds at ease, we would like to explain how we will keep children safe in relation to road safety.

Each child has one to one support which allows more time to evaluate each individual need in road safety whether upon arrival the child completes workshops session on road safety. Children at the home will continue to be involved in key working sessions around leaving and entering the home by foot. All children at the home that comply with the safety plan will be rewarded daily, weekly and month to ensure continuation of positive behaviour towards road safety. Until establishing the ability of the individual to comply to the road safety plan all children will be transported in and out of the home via vehicle. We can place safety measures in place where we can keep the front door and gate locked and children can either use the rear exit or front accompanied by an adult. All children must walk on the inside nearest to the buildings.

The best way to delivery safety around the home is to identify the danger with the child allow them to engage and identify dangers they feel are relevant in road safety and then reward them for how well they have managed it. Walking on the inside, shoulder to shoulder, slow place and all equipment used on the beach across the road to be zipped in a ruck sack on the back of a staff member to carry until at a safe space or location. Due to the concerns of the road, it is our emphasis on reward strategy and workshop or key working sessions that will gain safety.

## OUTDOOR SPACE

There we a few objections regarding the outdoor space available to children. we would like to say that outdoor space will be calculated by apart of CIW regulation this is their normal procedure where they will identify whether or not we can open due the space available to the children in our care.

We would like to make everyone aware of the type of services, ethos and values that we will uphold. In our experience children that are in residential care need extra time, care and attention. The majority of children's home in Swansea and wales operate on a multi staff basis for example there can be one staff to three children. when we decided to open up our own home, we discussed all the negative points that we have experienced whilst working in a multi staffed home and other homes in general. The main fault we found was other homes operating on a multi staff basis the negatives were, the child does not have a sufficient amount of care and support due to the lack of available staff, children are allocated set days for activities and days out away from the home are limited due the need and responsibilities the home has to other children which may take president.

After reflecting on our experiences positive and negative, we made a decision to change the way and only operate a one-to-one service, in term of costings we are more competitive than the costings of a home that provides multi staffing. What this means for each child is they receive one to one support. Children need time out each day to spend on things they enjoy and what make them happy and grow. The one-to-one staffing allows the child to grow and develop at a much faster pace. If we reflect on our own childhoods and key areas

children should be given more opportunity to grow in, we would all agree on many of the same points such as confidence, social skills and health and wellbeing. These are just three key points children will need extra support in. The main question is how we are going to deliver the opportunities for positive outcomes, as we reflect on our one-to-one staffing each child will be provided a weekly planner where they decide the forthcoming week what activities they would like to do it will essentially look like this.

Monday – Park, Bike ride, Woodland walk

Tuesday – Rugby, Football, Dance, Music, Book Club

Wednesday – Cinema, Bowling, Swimming

Thursday- Rugby, Football, Dance, Music, Book Club

Friday- Beach walk and games on beach, cinema night and snacks

Saturday- Football matches, Dance and music schools, Horse riding, Surf school, BBQ and beach games. Gower beach visits, animal statutory visits, football and rugby tickets for the liberty or parc y scarlets etc.

Sunday – Rugby's match, Walks, Bike rides, swimming etc.

The child will decide on the activities they enjoy doing and we are here to support and enable the children to enjoy their time with us whilst building confidence and self-esteem. The support we offer will only enhance the opportunity's the child will have to develop.

Some concern we raised regarding the amount of outdoor space that is available to children. We have provided a space that will have basketball hoop and your typical garden toys you would typically see in a normal home setting. It will be astro turfed and one wall painted in typical colourful child friendly garden. The car space and garden will be separated with a safety barrier in between. Some concerns were regarding the amount of space available I hope you can understand by reading above the type of services we aim to provide children, it concentrates on an activity-based structure as we feel it is imperative that children are able to be an apart of a community with sports teams, events and clubs that will help the grow and develop. The home itself is a beautiful property that will provide children with a large internal bedrooms and games room, our level of support will encourage a fulfilling enjoyable childhood that supports them in the community.

## Final Reflection

We appreciated everyone's time and considerations during this process. We thank everyone with their concerns and objections, despite some that are not planning concerns we hope that we have provided everyone with enough information regarding points that affect them and how they feel regarding the children living there.