



MERIDIAN HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME

Statement of purpose and function

Jamores Limited trading as Jamores Homes
August 2017

**Jamores Homes (part of Jamores Ltd)
London**

This is a Statement of Purpose and Function for Jamores Homes (Meridian House) and is compiled as required under "SCHEDULE 1 Regulation 16 (Matters to be included in the Statement of Purpose) of The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015.

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Signature:.....  **Date: 10th August 2017**

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Our Shared Commitment

Meridian House will make every endeavour to plan and deliver services to children and young people (C&YP) in full compliance with the governments agenda for children's social care, as set out within context of the 'Children Homes Regulation including quality standards 2015 and the current Greenwich 'Children & Young People Plan 2014-17', 'Safeguarding' and 'Narrowing the Gap'.

To this end our key priorities will be to work in a way that:

- Children & young people are confident to respond to bullying.
- Children & young peoples' emotional wellbeing and mental health is well supported.
- Ensures stable, secure, safe and effective care for children and young people.
- Ensures better life chances for children in need and those in care (e.g. good education, health from a holistic perspective, and social care).
- Actively involves clients and carers in decisions pertaining to planning and service delivery.
- Promotes effective partnership working to protect and promote the welfare of Children & Young People within context of current legislation and guidance.
- Good assessments are undertaken given rise to individually tailored plan that affords all children and young people opportunity to thrive and realize their potential.
- Children & young people with learning difficulties and disabilities are empowered to reach their full potential.
- Support children & young people to manage mental health issues.

The values of the home

We believe that:

- Residential care should provide C&YP with skilled support from committed staff in a safe, caring and ordered environment.
- We have a responsibility to ensure that C&YP in residential care are protected from abuse and neglect.
- Care should form part of a range of services, which combine to meet children and young people's needs and support their families and carers.
- We should recruit support staff that are carefully selected and have opportunities to develop skills and professional practice through training and supervision.

Quality and Purpose of Care

1. A statement of the range of needs of the children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care.

Meridian House can accommodate Looked After Children and young people aged between ten and eighteen years of either gender for short, medium or long term placements. This includes children and young people who are:

- victims of trauma
- suffering with low self-esteem or lack confidence
- emotionally or behaviourally challenged
- have moderate to severe learning difficulties/disability including autism and associated disorder
- considered more difficult to place
- the victims of abuse or domestic violence
- sibling groups
- have history mental health problems

Meridian House cannot accommodate children & young people:

- with a physical disability
- with a drug or alcohol dependency
- who have a history of arson
- who are high risk absconders
- who have serious criminal convictions (rape, arson, murder)

2. Details of the children's home's ethos, and the outcomes that the children's home seeks to achieve and its approach to achieving them.

Any good parent wants to make sure their children enjoy good emotional and physical health, an excellent education and a wide range of opportunities to enjoy their childhood so that they have every chance to grow up into successful, well rounded and mature adults. Meridian House, in collaboration with the responsible/placing authority will endeavour to ensure children placed with us are given these same opportunities regardless of sex, age, culture, disability, ethnicity or religious persuasion.

At Meridian House we fully recognize that the period of adolescence can be very turbulent and that oftentimes it can present numerous challenges and anxieties for young people to the extent that established routines and bonds can be pushed to breaking point. Notwithstanding this, it is our belief that, stability and access to

support and nurturing are critical in order to help build resilience and a solid and sustainable platform for adulthood and independence. To this end, we aim to offer a home that values children and young people regardless of their differences and diversity, as such, qualities including tolerance and acceptance are essential to our recruitment process.

We also believe that children & young people grow and flourish as a direct result of good parenting, by being included in the daily decisions of their family group. To this end it is our aim that our Home will offer both quality individual time, (the development of meaningful relationships with key workers), and as importantly, instilling tolerance and acceptance of others by living as part of a group.

We adopt a realistic attitude in that living in a group home can present with difficulties of its own. However, we also believe that it is by being mindful of this that we continue to review on-going care practices to ensure our young people receive the individual input dictated by their unique needs.

Our physical environment, the activities and social inclusion opportunities we offer and the staffing arrangement will actively counteract any adverse effects that may otherwise present owing to the size of the home.

Although every attempt is made to create a warm, family like environment, we remain committed to the belief that a child or young person's own natural family has its own unique qualities. Therefore as a residential service we work towards maintaining good communication links with the families and other agencies that work with the children or young people.

It is our overall aim to offer placements in an effort to assist the C&YP through the transition into adulthood and although we accept that placements can break down, we will only offer a place based on the real belief that we can make it successful.

We give our expressed commitment to provide children and young people with structures, care and support in ways that aids and promotes growth, personal and social development in order that they are empowered to make informed choices, aspire, compete, and realise their full potential, thereby being well positioned to make valued contributions as good citizens wherever they choose to reside. To this end, C&YP accommodated at Meridian House will receive the full benefits of a planning and service delivery model that is client-centred in all respects.

Consequently, our organisational ethos emphasises and endorses the following principles:

Privacy: Staff will ensure that each child or young person is treated as a respected individual who can exercise privacy in as many areas of their life as possible. Staff will take into account the need to safeguard their welfare and act in strict accordance with their placement plan.

Dignity & Respect: We recognise the intrinsic value of each individual child or young person. Children and young people are respected as individuals, we respect their uniqueness and their individual needs. This encourages children to keep their sense of personal heritage, identity and community.

Independence. We will support and enable the children & young people accommodated with us to make their own decisions with minimal need for reference to others in agreement with their placement plan whilst ensuring their safety at all times.

Choice: Our staff will ensure that opportunities exist for each child or young person to exercise choice in as many aspects of their daily lives as possible. This need for choice will be balanced with the need to safeguard and maintain welfare.

Rights: Children and young people will be given the same rights as individuals living in the community. Meridian House supports Articles 42 of the 'United Nations Convention on the Rights (and Responsibilities) of the Child' see: www.unicef.org.uk. The children and young people who stay with us will be given information about this.

Fulfilment: In recognition that young people are children first; the C&YP accommodated with us will be encouraged and supported to realise personal potential and abilities in all aspects of life.

Spirituality: Where a child or young person expresses an interest, staff will discuss and support them in meeting their spiritual beliefs/requirements. Where appropriate, members of staff will refer the child or young person to those who are better placed to offer this support. We have respect for all religions and belief systems.

Equality: We will ensure that the services and facilities of the home are accessible and available to all. The service provided by our staff should not judge children and young people's circumstances, backgrounds and lifestyles. It should not discriminate on the grounds of race, culture, language, religious beliefs, gender, sexuality or disability. Individuality will be valued; A commitment to treat C&YP fairly.

Quality: promoting quality services which are based on agreed standards and meet legal and good practice requirements. A commitment to ensure that staff working with children and young people will do what they say they do.

Listening: a commitment to listen to children and young people and help them express their wishes and needs in whatever way is best suited to the individual child or young person.

Confidentiality: We will treat all personal information in confidence. The team is committed to only share personal information with other professionals about a young person on a 'need to know basis', balancing the need to protect with being able to provide a good service

These principles we believe are consistent and compatible with those outlined within the 'Quality Standards' for children and young people, namely:

- a) the quality and purpose of care standard
- b) the children's views, wishes and feelings standard
- c) the education standard
- d) the enjoyment and achievement standard

- e) the health and well-being standard
- f) the positive relationships standard
- g) the protection of children standard
- h) the leadership and management standard
- i) the care planning standard.

all of which informs our work. As such we will make every endeavour to provide an environment that offers access to positive role models, that promotes acceptance, healing and stability, whilst ensuring due consideration is given to the safety of children & young people, those working within the home and visitors. Accordingly, care, support, education, key working, therapy and other services will be structured to meet individual needs and further will be subject to regular reviews. This will be complimented by positive reinforcement facilitated via the giving of praise and recognition and constructive use of reward and sanctions, to support learning.

In order to ensure consistency and maximize benefit for our C&YP, MeridianHouse operates the principles of transparency and therefore will fully commit to forging open, supportive relationships with children, young people, families/carers, partner agencies and stakeholders. As such during consultative forums and in the event of an unplanned placement breakdown, feedback will be regularly sought and acted upon in order to improve future planning and service delivery.

Essentially, Jamores Homes are fully committed to creating a sustainable living, working and learning environment that affords opportunities for delivering specialised and person centred packages of care and support to children and young people, at the heart of which is an ongoing endeavour to promote growth and development within context of an effective and efficient partnership network.

3. A description of the accommodation offered by the children's home, including— (a) how accommodation has been adapted to the needs of children cared for by the children's home; (b) the age range, number and sex of children for whom it is intended that accommodation is to be provided; (c) the type of accommodation, including sleeping accommodation.

Meridian House is a semidetached property able to cater for up to 3 children and young people aged between ten and eighteen years of either gender for short, medium or long term placements.

There is an office attached to the side of the building which serves the administrative needs of the home. This arrangement was carefully planned in order that staff (and any other professionals) could carry out their duties in ways that gives rise to as little impact as possible on the children and young people accommodated in the home.

Meridian House features the following:

- Individual double rooms (siblings may share a room if they wish)
- Good sized wardrobes and other essential furnishings.
- Internet and ICT facilities
- There is a wide range of learning aids and resources.
- A high spec kitchen where we cook our meals fresh. Children and young people are encouraged to help in the kitchen and can choose snacks or drinks when they wish.
- Bright dining area, comfortably seating up to six people where we eat our meals.
- A large, comfortable lounge furnished to a high standard. We also use this space to relax and watch TV, videos or DVDs
- Downstairs there is a further WC for use by staff and visitors.
- To the rare of the building there is a tranquil garden which gives the opportunity for relaxation, reflection and leisure
- The bathroom and toilet facilities have been designed to meet the needs of
- There is also a shower provided.

4. A description of the location of the children's home.

Established in 2015, the property used to deliver services to children and young people is a 3 bedded semi-detached dwelling in Blackheath. An attractive, quiet and family oriented village location situated in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The style of property and location were chosen as it encourages our young people to be involved in their local community, have aspirations and support the belief that their hopes and dreams can be realized. Its proximity and transport links to large towns including London city are such that it affords C&YP with relatively easy access for contact, leisure and diverse cultural enrichment opportunities.

Greenwich is renowned for a very low crime rate and the home is within a catchment with good leisure, recreation and academic institutions, including several outstanding schools and colleges e.g. the home benefits from being within 10 minutes bus ride from the mainline station with links to London Bridge and London Charing Cross.

Meridian House provides accommodation in accordance with the guidance set out in the Guide to Children Homes Regulations including the quality standards 2015:

- Young people have individual double rooms.
- Bedrooms are situated on the upper floor.
- Each young person (YP) is provided with good sized wardrobes and other essential furnishings.
- A plush bathroom and shower
- Wide range of learning aids and resources e.g. computer, workbooks, educational software, games.

- Internet and ICT facilities.
- A small kitchen where we cook our meals fresh. Children and young people are encouraged to help in the kitchen and can choose snacks or drinks when they wish.
- Dining table, comfortably seating up to four people where we eat our meals.
- A large, comfortable lounge furnished to a high standard.
- To the rear of the building there is a tranquil garden which gives opportunity for relaxation, reflection and leisure.
- The bathroom and toilet facilities have been designed to meet the needs of our children.
- To the front of the building there is ample parking for 2 vehicles.
- We have a small office which supports the admin for the home and affords us the opportunity to have meetings with partners/stakeholders without any risk of breaching confidentiality.
- There is a facility for young people to make and receive calls in private via the main office telephone which can be taken to their rooms. Also, a 'house mobile' phone will be provided in the communal area for young people's use only. Alternatively, young people have access to internet facilities (emails) to make private contact.

5. The arrangements for supporting the cultural, linguistic and religious needs of children accommodated in the children's home.

At Meridian House, our staff team understand and are committed to the principles of equality and diversity. Our staff team will respect and value 'diversity' and 'difference' as it applies to individual child or young person's religious needs. These needs will be identified during the child or young person's Pre-Placement Meeting. Where it applies to emergency placement; diversity issues will be identified during subsequent meeting within 72 hours of placement commencement. This early identification would enable the child or young person's allocated key worker to support religious observance and instruction.

Meridian House will ensure that our C&YP are supported to observe their religious beliefs. C&YP accommodated in our home will be enabled, as far as is practicable, to attend religious services at their chosen place of worship. Any dietary, dress or other requirements based on religious grounds will be respected and accommodated.

Jamores Homes (JH) will not discriminate because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins), religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. It will not discriminate because of any irrelevant factor and will build a culture that values meritocracy, openness, fairness and transparency.

6. Details of who to contact if a person has a complaint about the home and how that person can access the home's complaint procedure

Meridian House aims to provide a high quality service to the children and young people accommodated with us. Feedback on how we perform will be sought and will be considered as an opportunity to improve the service.

Children and young people will be given information on how to make complain and to whom. This information will be given to children and young people when they are placed with us, this is also included in the Children and Young Peoples' Guide. The information will include details of independent organisations to which any complaints may be made. Complaints will be taken seriously and be addressed without delay. C&YP will be supported to make complaint both internally and externally and will be kept informed of the progress of any investigation and the outcome of the complaint.

There are written policy and procedures for the staff to follow in dealing with complaints. All staff will be trained on these policies. Staff will listen carefully to what a child or young person is saying and be alert to their concerns; particularly if they express unhappiness about any aspect of their care or treatment.

Child protection issues will be dealt with in line with Jamores Homes Safeguarding policy and procedures. There will be no form of reprisal against a child or young person who makes a complaint.

Our written guidelines about the complaints procedure identify three types of complaint:

- Informal complaint:
- Formal Complaint
- Appeals Process:

There are comprehensive policies and procedures available on request.

Complaints can be address to: **Esther Ajakaye**
The Registered Manager
Meridian House
230 Shooters Hill Road
Greenwich
SE3 8UW.

7. Details of how a person, body or organisation involved in the care or protection of a child can access the home's child protection policies or the behaviour management policy.

Details of the children's home's policies for safeguarding children, preventing bullying and the missing child policy.

Jamores Homes will not tolerate or collude with any form of neglect or abuse. We aim to promote and safeguard the welfare of all our children and young people and will be proactive in responding to any allegation or suspicion of abuse. We also empower our children and young by ensuring they are fully aware of what constitutes abuse and how to report it.

Our Safeguarding Children Policy is based on the following principles:

- ensuring suitable and appropriate staff are recruited
- ensuring effective management of staff through regular supervision, support and training
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know
- involving parents and children appropriately
- sharing information about child safeguarding and good practice with children, parents, carers and staff
- ensuring that partner organisations (e.g. suppliers of agency staff, voluntary organisations) apply child safeguarding practice when operating from Jamores premises
- ensuring action taken is sensitive to and takes account of the child's gender, age, stage of development, religion, culture and race

At Meridian House we believe that an important factor in protecting and safeguarding children is the need for our children and young people to feel safe and cared for. Jamores Homes have a comprehensive Safeguarding Children policy and procedures; we have established links with the Greenwich Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB); our policies are compatible with GSCB's guidance and information. Our policy include (for example):

- The assertion that safeguarding is everyone's duty and responsibility
- Definitions of abuse.
- Identifying signs and symptoms of abuse.
- Responding to allegations or suspicions of abuse without delay
- Keeping the child & young people informed and safe.
- Who to contact and when.
- Recording incidents.
- Whistle-blowing
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

- Anti-radicalisation

Our induction programme covers training on safeguarding children. Every member of staff is required to read and sign to indicate their understanding of the policy and procedure. Policies and procedures are also regularly discussed in team meetings. All staff will attend training and will be equipped with knowledge on how to respond to bullying in the home. We will regularly discuss bullying and discrimination with children during key work and house meeting.

Jamores Homes will review its policies and practice in line with any changes in legislation. We will ensure that all our staff are trained in good 'safeguarding' practices and are able to implement their training in practice.

The management and staff at Meridian House are aware that abuse of children and young people can potentially occur via the internet and mobile phones and that this is a growing area, hence, we will be aware and sensitive to identify when this occurs and respond appropriately to support our children & young people. We will provide the children and young people accommodated with us with information on how to keep safe on the internet.

The management at Meridian House have a commitment to maintain its links with the Greenwich Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) to keep abreast of developments and guidance in this area of safeguarding.

Views, Wishes and Feelings

8. A description of the children's home's approach to consulting children about the quality of their care.

We will endeavour to consult our young people about all aspects of their daily life on a regular basis. This will include informal consultation e.g. at dinner or more formally during 1:1 key work sessions. Formal consultation will also be conducted as part of the monthly Regulation 44 visits to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home from the children and young peoples' perspective. Children & young people accommodated with us will have the opportunity to talk to people outside of the staff team such as independent advocates e.g. the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), Barnardo's Children's Advocacy service etc. We will also carry out survey to get children and stakeholders' views of the services provided at Meridian House. The report of these consultations will be passed on to the management team as part of the Regulation 44 cycle of visits whose report will be forwarded to our Ofsted inspector.

By encouraging our children & young people to contribute their views on different aspects of the running of the home, the management team at Meridian House will develop and support a culture of dialogue that ensures trust and allows our children

& young people to see that the adults at Meridian House welcome and value their views.

9. A description of the children's home's policy and approach in relation to— (a) anti-discriminatory practice in respect of children and their families; and (b) children's rights.

Members of staff at Meridian House are committed to the welfare of all children and young people in their care; we will ensure that our residents, staff and visitors to Meridian House are treated equally regardless of gender, ethnicity, culture, nationality, social background, sexual orientation or religious affiliation.

Staff at Meridian House will take positive measures to counter discrimination. It is Jamores Homes' clear objective and policy to embrace the principles of "equality". All members of the staff team will operate within the framework of this policy. Any conduct which is contrary to this will be investigated in line with our equality & diversity and disciplinary policies and procedures. Disciplinary action, which could include dismissal, may be taken.

All instances of discrimination will be acknowledged as abusive and will be addressed seriously and consistently by managers and staff members. Children and young people who feel that they have suffered discrimination should bring this to the attention of the staff using the complaints procedure that have been set out in the children and young people's guide.

Staff at Meridian House will help children and young people to observe and preserve their religious, ethnic, cultural, social or sexual identity. The children and young people accommodated with us will be encouraged to express themselves with dress, art, music, food, customs and celebrations in ways that are satisfying to their backgrounds and needs. Positive attitudes from our staff will facilitate this expression.

The Management team of Jamores Homes will ensure that staff selection, recruitment, training, promotion and treatment is informed by anti-discriminatory practice; no-one will be disadvantaged in these matters.

The Management team will seek to ensure that harassment will not take place in the workplace and will intervene to resolve any potential areas of difficulty in accordance with our bullying and harassment policy. Harassment (may be defined as "behaviour which is unwanted and unreciprocated and which is demeaning or intimidating to an individual"). Harassment can take forms of jokes, inappropriate remarks, less favourable treatment or bullying.

The management team at Meridian House will support training that staff may require to work in a competent way with issues around diversity and difference.

Organisational policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated in the light of any changes in legislation and good practice.

Jamores Homes is committed to providing support and reasonable adjustments in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to those staff members who require this in order to enable them to perform their job functions with minimum discomfort and risk to their health and wellbeing.

Education

10. Details of provision to support children with special educational needs.

We acknowledge the importance of education in young people's lives and will work in ways that facilitate and support young people in attending, attaining and achieving. As part of our on-going commitment to respond to the educational needs of children and young people in our care, the staff team at Meridian House will be proactive in forging and sustaining positive links with teaching staff within mainstream and support services and family members as appropriate, in order to aid effective collaboration in terms of delivering educational programs and assessing progress and recognizing achievements. As part of these efforts, staff of Meridian House will attend school consultation meetings and any other extra-curricular events that are normally attended by parents.

The arrangement for the educational needs of each child or young person including their Personal Education Plan (PEP) are clearly identified, as part of the planning and agreement process and accordingly incorporated into their individual placement plan prior to coming to stay at Meridian House. The school, in line with central government guidance, will be made aware when a young person moves to Meridian House of their change of placement or circumstance. A representative from school is always invited to attend a young person's statutory review, or any other meetings that support the young person's education in order to ensure we are working in partnership to ensure good outcomes in relation to their educational attainments.

If a young person arrives without a school place, we will work towards gaining a place within 20 days of coming to stay at Meridian House, this is in line with our education policy and also consistent with the Government Policy for Education of Children and Young People in Public Care (Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children, Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities).

Meridian House is not an education provider but has facility to provide onsite tuition support for C&YP for a very short time, while working with virtual school to identify an educational provisional. This will be in the form of online tuition via IXL

and support via our education consultant who set and grades YP's work and support staff with liaison with the education providers.

Further, young people's rooms are equipped with all the necessary furnishings to facilitate studies for those who wish to do so away from the group. Accurate and up to date information will be maintained on file for each child or young person in respect of school reports; copy of the child or young person's PEP, any Individual Education Plan (IEPs) and/or any behaviour targets (such as PSPs) from school, Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND), education history, reports from external agencies that have worked with school(s) with clear information about the child's educational attainment, needs and aspirations. Information will also be kept to highlight any other support or additional input that the child is receiving from school such as if the child was identified as 'Gifted & Talented'.

The staff at Meridian House will act as educational advocates for the children & young people accommodated with us.

Transport arrangements may need to be made in order to facilitate this. Where necessary these matters will have been discussed at the 'pre- admission stage' and be incorporated into the child or young person's placement plan. When concerns about a child or young person's education arises; after they have been placed with us, we will make contact with the local authority's education support service (and the child or young person's placing authority) to take matters forward. Where beneficial to the child, staff at Meridian House will make links with a school's Designated LAC Teacher who has a statutory duty to ensure that there is effective partnership working with regards to the child or young person's educational requirements.

The child or young person will always be consulted about their PEP. Staff at Meridian House may enquire about matters such as any potential impact for the child or young person of changing school/provision, as any parent would do. In support of the child or young person, staff at Meridian House will also consider the following:

- Whether the child or young person's needs could be met by attending a particular school or provision.
- Are there any special educational needs and how these will be met.
- Any areas where the child or young person may be able, gifted or talented.
- The level of monitoring a child or young person might need over school attendance.
- Parental or social worker involvement.

- Making links with any agencies that may be involved with the child or young person educationally (e.g. YOT, Mentoring schemes).
- Dates of national examinations (e.g. SATs) or other assessments the child or young person may intend taking.
- Staff responsibility for liaising and following up with schools.
- Arrangements for travelling to and from school safely.
- Any fixed term or permanent exclusions a child or young person may be given.

11. If the children’s home is dually registered as a school, details of the curriculum provided by the children’s home and the management and structure of the arrangements for education.

Meridian House is not dually registered as a school; hence, this is not applicable.

12. If the children’s home is not dually registered as a school, the arrangements for children to attend local schools and the provision made by the children’s home to promote the educational attainment of children.

It is the responsibility of a child or young person’s key worker at Meridian House to take interest in all aspects of the child or young person’s education. The key worker will ensure that there is a continuity and have high expectation for the educational attainment of the child or young person. Key workers will be aware of and monitor the child or young person’s engagement with the range of extra-curricular opportunities available in school.

The key worker will maintain liaison with teachers to ensure that each party’s roles are understood and how they can work together. The key worker will attend educational review meetings and contribute to these where appropriate; and provide reports where necessary. The key worker will acknowledge the child or young person’s achievements at school and develop ways of celebrating these within the Home.

Where beneficial the Key worker will recommend additional resources that may help the child or young person to access education, including the use of ICT resources. The key worker may participate in any training which is aimed at addressing the educational needs of the child or young person. Should it be necessary for the child or young person to have a school detention the key-worker will be contacted and the matter will be discussed and agreed with them.

Staff at the home will promote links with pro-social peer groups and role models (such as with the 'Duke of Edinburgh' awards scheme). Where a child or young person reaches the age where they are no longer required to receive compulsory full time education, the manager will assist in making arrangements for their further education, training or employment.

Enjoyment and Achievement

13. The arrangements for enabling children to take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, intellectual, physical and social interest and skills.

At Meridian House, we understand that as children & young people grow it is widely accepted that exercise should be part of their physical development. Participation in recreational, leisure and sporting activities by our children & young people is considered to be an important lifestyle choice. With benefit such as learning new skills and discovering new talents, improving levels of fitness, social skills, greater confidence etc. Staff at Meridian House will encourage and support our children & young people to participate in a range of leisure/recreational activities such as engaging with local youth clubs, national organisations such as 'The Princes Trust', the 'Duke of Edinburgh's Award' and the local Leisure Centre (Thamesmere Leisure Centre which offers a comprehensive gym and swimming programmes for this age group. Meridian House will also arrange group activities planned in consultation with children and young people such as bowling, trips to cinema, London underwater world, theatre etc.

Meridian House will support activities and visits that have an educational as well as a fun focus, for example trips to educational attractions (such as the Science Museum, London Eye etc) these trips may also be linked with our children & young people' educational curriculum. Each child & young person will be encouraged and supported to pursue their particular hobbies and interests. Meridian House will conduct risk assessments to ensure that appropriate checks are made when our children & young people take part in activities/outdoor pursuits while recognising the need for positive risk taking. In planning activities, children and young people's

wish to take part or not will be respected, provided there are no underlying issues to be concerned about. Any such incidents will be recorded in the Meridian House logs. Activities will also be planned in line with individual child or young person's placement plan.

Children & young people will be supported to attend and engage in any religious and/or cultural interests identified in the placement plan. Staff will be proactive in assisting to maintain modes of dress, ceremony, diet and custom etc.

- Staff will provide transport to places of worship and meeting places.
- Staff will ensure that aspects of culture and religious heritage are not lost.
- Staff will facilitate the child or young person's cultural or religious needs and help to make appropriate links.

Staff will assist the child or young person to obtain language support where and when required.

Health

14. Details of any health care or therapy provided, including— (a) details of the qualifications and clinical supervision of the staff involved; (b) information about— (i) how the children's home measures the effectiveness of its approach, the evidence demonstrating its effectiveness and (ii) details of how the information or evidence can be accessed.

Meridian House commissions the services of an Art Psychotherapist. This role is to provide regular support to staff working directly with the children and young people accommodated with us. For those who are experiencing emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties, the Psychotherapist will provide leadership and consultant expertise in supporting their onward development. This would include advice to staff in relation to the individual profile of strengths and difficulties for each child or young person. To promote good practice in working together, existing information shared with the Registered Manager from assessments completed by other services may inform this process (e.g. Social Worker, SALT, Paed, CAMHS etc).

To involve the Psychotherapist with a particular child or young person, the Registered Manager will seek written consent from the responsible authority or a person with parental responsibility. Any child or young person placed with us can meet with a Psychotherapist individually to talk about issues that concern them. During their consultation with the Psychotherapist, they may be supported to identify positive ways forward. This may involve evidence-based therapeutic

intervention. The Psychotherapist may consider it appropriate to meet with the parent(s) and/or social worker of the child or young person (where appropriate).

The Psychotherapist will contribute to the provision of quality care and service by “skilling up” staff at Meridian House. Essential in this process will be advice on working therapeutically with the child or young person. They will support the Registered Manager in ensuring that all risks are managed within the service in accordance with good practice, policies and procedures. In addition, they will support the Registered Manager in monitoring safeguarding matters and provide advice about onward referrals via the relevant social worker for each child or young person.

Additionally, Meridian House has access to consultant psychiatrist from our local CAMHS team should any of our residents require this service. Our management team have qualification and experience in mental health care and substance misuse management including within CAMHS.

In line with the Regulation, our Psychotherapist will have access to external supervision aligned to her professional training and codes.

Positive Relationships

15. The arrangements for promoting contact between children and their family and friends.

Children and young people at Meridian House will be encouraged to maintain appropriate, constructive contact with their families, friends and other people who play a significant role in their lives. This will be in compliance with contact arrangements specified in the child or young person’s placement plan (in agreement with the social worker). All records of contact will be maintained and kept in the child or young person's file. Any restrictions on contact for the protection of the child (and others) will be made clear on admission. Contact by visits, telephone, e-mail and letter will be facilitated in cases where there are no such restrictions. The full postal address and contact number for Meridian House will be given to each child or young person on admission.

Any post will be given to the child or young person unopened unless instruction has been given by the placing authority to vet incoming mail. If there is any concern regarding the contents of mail received, this will be notified to the placing authority. Any subsequent changes in the arrangements for contact that are decided must be confirmed in writing by the placing authority (a telephone call is not sufficient authority).

Meridian House will comply with any restrictions on contact that may be imposed by the courts or the placing authority for the protection of the child or young

person. Any unauthorised or restricted person shall be denied admission to the home and placing authority notified.

The placing authority will be notified if a child or young person is refusing contact or if it is observed that contact is causing distress to the child or young person and may be detrimental to their welfare. Staff will endeavour to find out from the young person the reasons for their distress.

The need for supervised contact should be identified at the pre- placement planning meeting stage. A decision should be made as to how and where this will take place. It is the responsibility of the placing authority to provide a venue and an appropriate adult to supervise the contact. Visits will be facilitated in the home where this is appropriate.

The placement plan will inform Meridian House staff who should be allowed to have private and unrestricted contact (and who should not). Staff at Meridian House will assist the child or young person by facilitating regular contact with professionals such as their social workers, independent guardians, other officers or advocates acting for the child (such as CAFCAS, NYAS, Ofsted or authorised Commissioning staff). If a request is made for staff (e.g. the key worker) to stay with the child or young person during contact, this will be granted if the staff ratio level permits this to happen.

Identification will be required of all visitors before admittance to the home. Visitors, except parents, will remain downstairs and not go up to child or young person's bedrooms. Parents will be allowed up to the bedroom when the child/young person is first admitted to view the room, but on no occasion will staff allow visitors (other than parent or appropriate official ones e.g. inspectors) to be left alone.

Protection of Children

16. A description of the children's home's approach to the surveillance and monitoring of children accommodated there.

The only form of electronic surveillance which may be used at Meridian House is if a young person is electronically tagged as part of a court imposed sentence. In this instance the appropriate surveillance equipment will be installed at the unit and external professionals will have overall responsibility for this equipment.

There are occasions when a young person's risk assessment identifies issues with drug or alcohol misuse or self-harm. If staff need to enter a young person's bedroom to check on their safety or carry out a room check, this is recorded and young people are always made aware.

Also, for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child and young person concerned and other children or young people accommodated in the

home, the management will use electronic monitoring provided the following conditions are met:

- The child's placing authority consents to the use of the measure in question;
- It is provided for in the child or young person's placement plan;
- So far as is practicable, in light of their age and understanding, the child in question is informed in advance of the intention to use such monitoring measures;
- The measure is no more restrictive than necessary having regards to the child's privacy.

17. Details of the children's home's approach to behavioural support, including information about— (a) the children's home's approach to the use of restraint in relation to children and; (b) how persons working in the children's home are trained in the use of restraint and how their competence is assessed.

At Jamores Homes we believe that behaviour management is most effective when built on good inter-personal relationships between adults and the young people. The home will be an environment where our children & young people can feel safe, cared for and where relationships are built on respect and understanding. The staff at Meridian House will maintain effective and clear professional boundaries. An important factor in this will be staff's understanding and ability to be sensitive to each child or young person's background and needs. Staff will maintain consistent, manageable boundaries for our children & young people with regards to behaviour management. Our staff will use approaches such as de-escalation and early intervention when dealing with behaviour management. Our staff team will receive training and accreditation to use the "TEAM TEACH" Physical Intervention model.

At Meridian House, the management team will continue to ensure that staff will have scheduled opportunities to share good practice in these matters. This will enable our staff team to de-brief, reflect, share ideas, learn from one another and discuss how things can be improved. As mentioned previously in Section 6, by giving our children & young people opportunities to be involved in the home's running, the management team are seeking to promote a system of care and behaviour management that is transparent, consistently applied and effective.

The care and behaviour management in the home will be underpinned by positive environmental factors and healthy behaviours modelled by staff. Meridian House recognises that holds may be necessary in some circumstances as a last resort to manage challenging behaviours in the interests of our children & young people's welfare and for the protection of others. Holding techniques will only be used where a risk assessment indicates that there is no other less intrusive method available to

achieve the desired positive outcome, and where there is legal defence for the use of force.

Jamores Homes have detailed policies with clear guidance and procedures for staff to follow about this. Any such incidents will be recorded in our 'physical restraint incident record book/Incident Log', which will be kept on file.

At Meridian House we will use the "Team Teach" model as our organisational framework for behaviour management.

The "Team Teach" model will provide our organisation with a framework that reduces the need for high-risk, inconsistent, reactive interventions. The "Team Teach" model will support practice at Jamores Homes by:

- Preventing crises from occurring
- De-escalating potential crises
- Managing acute physical behaviours
- Reducing potential and actual injury to our children, young people and staff
- Teaching/modelling to our children and young people adaptive/coping skills
- Providing Jamores Homes with a behaviour management framework.
- Enabling Jamores Homes to be a reflective, learning organisation.

Should boundaries be breached in the home, staff have a system for assessing incidents and making professional judgments about the correct course of action that is most appropriate. The staff's response to inappropriate behaviours will be measured, contemporaneous and fair. Following any incidents the child or young person will be helped to understand why the behaviour was unacceptable.

All parties with a legitimate interest in the welfare of the child or young person will be informed of any restraint used. All those involved in the situation will be offered a de-brief opportunity and the child or young person will be advised of their right to complain and to whom they can complain.

All Jamores Homes' staff will be made aware of and will sign to agree with the use of the non-permissible sanctions outlined in The Children's Homes Regulations 2001, Section 17(5). Staff will not use:

- (a) any form of corporal punishment;
- (b) any punishment relating to the consumption or deprivation of food or drink;
- (c) any restriction, other than one imposed by a court or in accordance with regulation 15, on—
 - (i) a child's contact with his parents, relatives or friends;
 - (ii) visits to him by his parents, relatives or friends;
 - (iii) a child's communications with any of the persons listed in regulation
 - (iv) his access to any telephone helpline providing counselling for children;

- (d)any requirement that a child wear distinctive or inappropriate clothes;
- (e)the use or withholding of medication or medical or dental treatment;
- (f)the intentional deprivation of sleep;
- (g)the imposition of any financial penalty, other than a requirement for the payment of a reasonable sum (which may be by instalments) by way of reparation;
- (h)any intimate physical examination of the child;
- (i)the withholding of any aids or equipment needed by a disabled child;
- (j)any measure which involves—
 - (i)any child in the imposition of any measure against any other child;
or
 - (ii)the punishment of a group of children for the behaviour of an individual child.

Leadership and Management

18. The name and work address of— (a) the registered provider (including details of the company owning the children’s home); (b) if nominated, the responsible individual; (c) if applicable, the registered manager.

Jamores Homes (part of Jamores Limited)

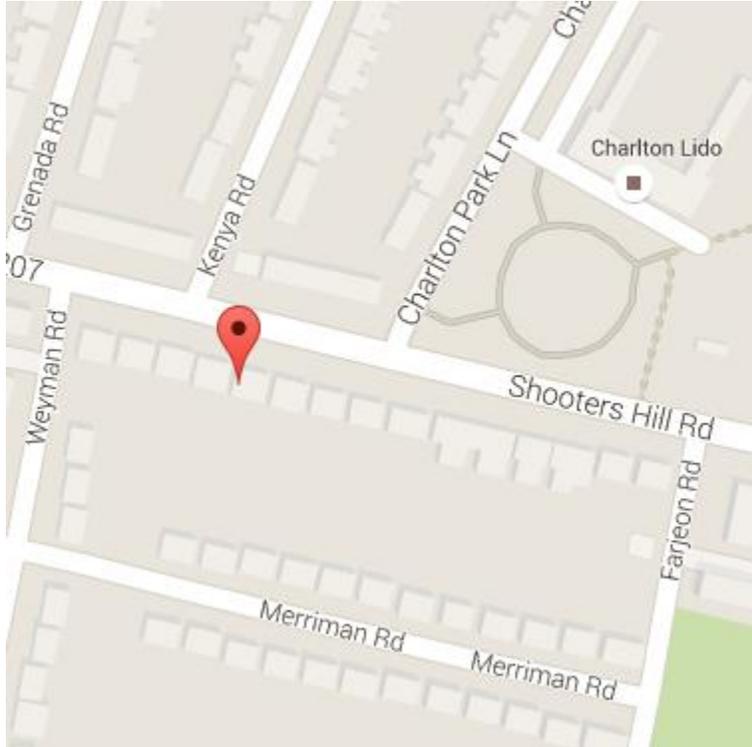
Esther Ajakaye
Registered Manager
Meridian House
230 Shooters Hill Road
Greenwich
SE3 8UW

James Adebayo
Responsible Individual
Jamores Homes
Studio 52,
Thames Innovation Centre
2 Veridion Way,
Erith
DA18 4AL

Telephone: 0208 432 0842
Fax:
Mob: 07961 071 020

E-Mail: info@Jamores.co.uk
Website www.Jamores.co.uk

Registration Number: SC1237027



The Responsible Person: James Adebayo

Qualifications and Experience:

James Adebayo has worked in a supporting role for children and young people (C&YP) in supported living, children and adolescent services (CAMHS) for ten years. His experience includes working in children homes, intensive care units and supported accommodation, with varying client groups ranging from young people, elderly, learning disability and mental health. Prior to this, James worked at a management level in a manufacturing company, supervising a team of fifty staff members. He was in charge of health and safety and quality control for the company. James Adebayo holds a Master degree in Business Information Management and NVQ 3 in Health and Social Care in residential setting. He has attended both in house and external trainings which include CPD2 in Understanding the Emotional Needs of Care Leavers and young people.

Operations Manager: Esther Ajakaye

Qualifications and Experience:

Esther Ajakaye has been working in the Health & Social Care sector for eighteen years. She has held management position for over seven years. She is an experienced registered Mental Health Nurse and specializes in working with complex mental health, substance misuse and dual diagnosis cases. She has had the opportunity to work in many specialist areas of mental health services, including; children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), forensic, acute and psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU), assertive outreach team, homelessness, home treatment team, psychiatric liaison (A&E) and rehabilitation. She has worked in multidisciplinary teams with Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Nurses and Occupational Therapists.

She is experienced in providing guidance, leadership and regular supervision. In addition to the above, she possesses a degree in Chemical Engineering Design; she holds a certificate in Leadership & Management and currently enrolled on a Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services.

19. Details of the experience and qualifications of staff working at the children's home, including any staff commissioned to provide education and health care.

Service Manager: Oyinlola Ogundele

Lola has experience of leading and supporting provisions for children's care and education with differing needs including learning disabilities, emotional and behavioural difficulties, complex health needs and mental health. She has In-depth knowledge of Children's Regulation 2015 and Ofsted Requirements; its application and delivery.

She is extremely outcomes focused and child centred and measure the impact of service delivered by the experience of the young people. Management and lifelong learning training experience enables her to coach, support and scaffold staff to deliver a very high standard of care entrenched in values emulated by the organisation.

Qualifications.

- Early years Professional Status. Level 6
- B.A. Honours English Language Studies.
- Preparing To Teach in Lifelong Learning Level 4
- Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care. Level 5
- Assessing work placed competence – Level 3 (In Progress)
- General Certificate of Education. O/Levels
- National Vocational Qualification 2 in health and Social Care.

Art Psychotherapy: Dannie Panzid Foster

Art therapy is a form of psychotherapy that uses art media as its primary mode of expression and communication. Within this context, art is not used as diagnostic tool but as a medium to address emotional issues which may be confusing and distressing.

I work with children, young people, adults and the elderly. My clients may have a wide range of difficulties, disabilities or diagnoses. These include emotional, behavioural or mental health problems, learning or physical disabilities, life-limiting conditions, neurological conditions and physical illnesses.

I offer Art therapy to groups or individually, depending on clients' needs. It is not a recreational activity or an art lesson, although the sessions can be enjoyable. Clients do not need to have any previous experience or expertise in art.

Although influenced by psychoanalysis, I have been inspired by theories such as attachment-based psychotherapy and I have developed a broad range of client-centred approaches such as psycho-educational, mindfulness and mentalization-based treatments, compassion-focussed and cognitive analytic therapies, and socially engaged practice. From my experience and learning I adapt my work to offer an integrative art therapy bespoke to each client which evolves as the client presents with new material to work on each week. The work is still underpinned by professional therapeutic outcomes and is supported by independent professional supervision.

I keep personal sessional notes for reflection and research, client clinical notes for organisation files of each session, I also offer monthly client profiles.

Educational Consultant: Alan Farrell (QTS)

Alan has 17 years' experience in education covering mainstream (primary and secondary), secure settings, pupil referral units (primary and secondary) and special schools (primary and secondary).

Alan has held a variety of leadership positions in all these settings and has achieved successful outcomes for all services worked achieving Good or Outstanding Ofsted grades from inadequate and requiring improvement grades prior to his posts.

Alan is currently completing his NPQH which is the National Professional Qualification for Headship. Alan's current Role is that of Deputy Head of a secondary school for young people with social emotional and mental health issues. Alan's role in his current position is behaviour lead for the federation of schools.

Alan is also an Advanced Team Teach tutor who he has been for the last 7 years and has delivered training and support to over 100 schools and Care homes and over 4000 staff. Alan has also supported and worked in the care sector for 6 years in addition to his school based work providing training and support in behaviour management and systems and processes.

Alan has worked with young people and has completed training and delivered training in the areas of Health and safety, safeguarding, behaviour management, as well as data tracking and systems.

Alan is currently in the process of developing resources and bespoke training to provide robust evidence based data systems that meet Ofsted criteria and additional training to cover all aspects of school and care settings compulsory training to ensure outstanding results in all settings in which he works.

Behavior Support Worker: Silky Kumar

I have worked in care homes with young people with emotional and behavioral difficulties for 5 years. I've also worked with young people as a drug and alcohol practitioner which allowed me to carry out one to one therapeutic based sessions with young people abusing these substances. Working as an Applied behavioral (ABA) tutor gave me some experience of introducing personalized incentive charts by targeting what motivates a child. I enjoy staying active by going swimming, exercising and staying mentally refreshed by meditating. I am a vegetarian a huge fan of animals!

Silky has a Bsc psychology and has commenced a Msc Early Intervention in psychosis, to graduate in November 2017

Deputy Manager: Danny Ball

Danny during his 12 year career in social care had the opportunity to spend time as key-worker to many different children with a variety of different needs. These needs include substance and alcohol misuse, as well as mental health problems and physical disabilities. Danny prides himself in being able to assess situations calmly and accurately and has proved time and again that he can quickly build successful and productive working relationships with the young people his care as well as his work colleagues. Danny also takes care to present as a positive male role-model at all times.

Danny has a flexible approach to his work and is able to work well on an independent or team work basis, sharing the workload of colleagues. Danny is adaptable and quick thinking so that he can meet the needs of young people, if required, on a minute by minute basis. Danny feels he has gained the trust and respect of colleagues (past and present) using my good sense of humor and logic, while drawing upon his personal and professional experiences to identify problems and read situations. Below is a list of qualifications Danny has achieved while working at residential/ senior and management level though his career at Surrey council, and keys care group. Danny will be enrolled onto his level 5 training once as soon as successfully completed probation.

Senior Support Worker: Kell Byer

A degree holder, Kell moved into the field of housing where he acquired a broad understanding of the policies, procedures and legalities relating to social and commercial properties and worked with disadvantaged young people.

As a youth support officer, Kell Supported clients to understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants, devise support plans, meet regularly and liaise with internal and external partners in relation to education employment and training needs.

Kell has a passion for Art and Design. He has incorporated this to in his role. Kell sets up regular Art and crafts workshop, giving the young people an opportunity to express themselves creatively.

He has undergone extensive training in Safeguarding, Child sexual exploitation and Gangs. He is also enrolled on level 3 diploma in Health & Social Care and Children & Young Peoples services.

Support Worker: Olu Obalade

Olu possesses a qualified teacher status (QTS). He has several years' experience working with C&YP in settings including residential and inpatient (clinical units). Olu also works with YP in a supporting role.

Support Worker: Esther Olatunji

Committed, compassionate and hardworking. An experienced care worker with over 6yrs experience, having worked across the adult and children services. Esther has a NVQ in Health & Social care and have undertaken various training to enhance her skills and expertise both in house and externally. Esther is currently enrolled on a Diploma L3 in children & young people services.

Support Worker: Courtney Ward

Says "I have a passion for children and supporting them in achieving the best potential while providing the best care possible. My main aim as a support worker is to help young people learn to live as independently as possible, by identifying and supporting them in their particular areas of need. I love watching children and young people develop and achieve."

Courtney holds a level 4 diploma in children and young people's workforce and she is currently studying for her level 5. The last 5 years she has been working with children from early years to primary school children and now young people. She was currently a room leader and a SENCO in the early years setting, Courtney has experience of working with children with a variety of special needs and learning difficulties. She has undertaken a wealth of training to support her in her job role. She loves to learn and will always show a willing attitude in doing so.

Support Worker: Rachael Aigbedion

Rachel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education and my passion is to work with children and young people who are from the unconventional backgrounds who need a second chance at life. I feel that every child/young person needs a chance to live the life they deserve and my passion is to see them achieve it by helping them make the right choices and giving them the support they need.

My skills include relational practice in which I feel I can use my life lessons to help young people achieve whichever goal they aspire to reach. My other skills include understanding, patience and being a positive influence in young people's lives.

Bank Staff: Esther Ederhovwo

Esther is a highly focused and conscientious support worker with almost 4 years of experience in the care sector. Esther is self-motivated and extremely driven to provide the best possible support for children and young people, and strives to encourage positive behaviors and identifying their physical, cultural, emotional and educational needs.

Esther listens and provides support for each young person with the use of person centered approaches which also includes helping the children to settle in their daily living.

Esther can also complete competently administrative tasks that are linked to the care of children and young people, Tasks such as keeping appropriate records, and making timely reports as and when required by the Home.

Esther can also create health plans based on each young person's individual needs, as well always implementing high standards of care no matter how challenging the circumstances.

Support Worker: Natasha Henry

New in post, awaiting Profile

Bank Support Worker: Grace Olayinka

New in post, awaiting Profile

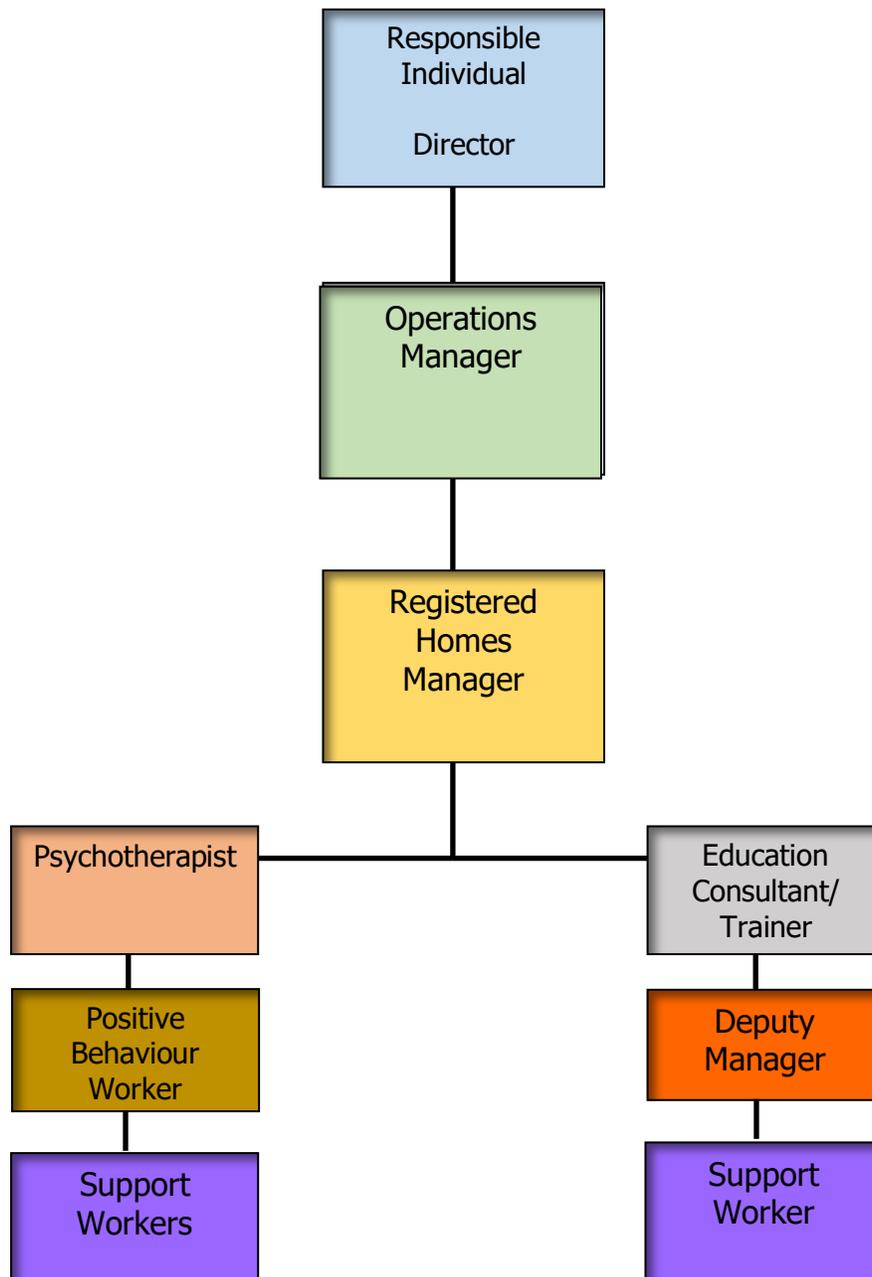
20. Details of the management and staffing structure of the children’s home, including arrangements for the professional supervision of staff employed at the children’s home, including staff that provide education or health care.

Organisational Structure of the Home.

Directors: Esther Ajakaye & James Adebayo

Responsible Person: James Adebayo

Registered Manager: Esther Ajakaye



Arrangements for Supervision, Training and Development of Employees

Supervision and appraisal is a vital part of supporting, managing and developing the staff team, it requires that staff receive and take active part in the supervision and appraisal process. As part of our commitment to deliver quality service and achieve positive outcomes for young people, Jamores Homes is committed to having in place a staff team with a balance of skills, knowledge and experience. Therefore, our approach to supporting learning and development will be holistic and personalized. Every member of staff will undergo proper induction in accordance with the home's probationary policy; of six months. The first six weeks of this will be spent focusing upon the induction programme, under the supervision of a senior staff member. Regular supervision will be provided during this initial six weeks, this will then progress to regular 4-6 weekly supervision. Once the staff member have been established and confirmed in post, in addition to regular supervision, their performance will be subject to regular and rigorous six monthly reviews in line with the organisational competencies framework, an integral part of this will be work plan/objectives for each individual worker. This ensures that performance and learning is kept under review. Informal advice and guidance will always be available as necessary. External professional supervision will be sought for the Psychologist and Teacher.

In relation to learning and development, staff record will include their learning and training history, that is, relevant training undertaken, with dates and provider; this will ensure effective monitoring of staff trainings and needs. This record will include mandatory and other training relevant to their roles, responsibilities and job function e.g.

- Work towards Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce
- Guide to Children Homes Regulations including the quality standards 2015
- Children's Homes Regulations 2015
- Managing Challenging Behaviour
- CSE Awareness
- Anti-Radicalisation (PREVENT) strategy and policy
- De-escalation Techniques
- Managing Violence and Aggression (Team Teach model)
- Safe Control and Restraint Techniques (Team Teach model)
- Safeguarding children & Adult
- Administration of Medication
- Child Protection
- Food Hygiene
- First Aid
- Moving & Handling
- Report Writing & Recording Skills

- Bullying Intervention Training
- Fire Training
- Health & Safety
- Risk assessments
- Substance Misuse Awareness
- Staff Induction Workbook
- Mindfulness
- Attachment theory
- Basic Residential Child Care Skills & team working
- Safeguarding for Leaders & Managers
- Normal and abnormal child development
- Recruitment & Selection refresher
- Therapeutic work with C&YP
- Effective complaint handling
- Delivering enjoyable activities
- Reflective Supervision Skills
- Interagency working
- County lines, gangs, and young people
- Performance management for managers
- Guidance, legislation and quality standards
- Meetings and minutes

To maximise learning opportunity, staff will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by utilising e-learning resources, in house training, workshops, and other training opportunities that may be available.

21. If the staff working at the children’s home are all of one sex, or mainly of one sex, a description of how the children’s home promotes appropriate role models of both sexes.”

Both sexes are represented in the staff team at Meridian House, hence, promotes appropriate role models.

Care Planning

22. Any criteria used for the admission of children to the children’s home, including any policies and procedures for emergency admission.

At Meridian House, we operate on the premise that planned admissions is the preferred route for admission into care, as this affords valuable opportunities to consult, gather information, assess suitability and plan responsively to identified

needs. However, subject to availability of vacant beds, in line with our commitment to positive and supportive partnership working with our stakeholders and our commitment to fair access and diversity; all referrals who meet our criteria as set out in this document will be, in exceptional circumstances offered a placement on an unplanned basis however, this decision will be based on the needs and risks presented by the child or young person in question, to ensure that such placement will not become disruptive to the children already accommodated in the home and that identified needs can be managed with a realistic prospect of achieving the desired placement outcomes. Factors such as, risk assessment and compatibility, as determined during our assessment process, will serve as key determinants in the Home's decision to accept or refuse emergency, short term and short break referrals.

At Meridian House, our staff team understand that admission into care regardless of the circumstances can and often provoke a great deal of anxiety in a child or young person. This is often the case in C&YP being accommodated into care for the first time. While C&YP come into "care" for different reasons, there is usually one common underlying element, namely: the decision usually follows a traumatic incident or experience in their lives, further in this vulnerable state the child or young person can feel guilty, abandoned, confused or lost.

With the understanding of the fact that new environment, expectation and routines can sometimes prove difficult, Meridian House believes that it is essential to provide good support to a child or young person throughout the entire admission process as this can help to reduce anxieties and fears and help establish a good platform from which staff can begin to work with them.

In view of this, our staff will be required to prepare as thoroughly as possible for the young person's admission; be open, warm and welcoming on arrival while being sensitive to any anxiety, wishes and aspirations of the young person.

Planned Admissions

Pre Admission

All referrals for a placement will be subject to our referral and allocation policy. Referral will be made using our standard referral form. This will be considered by the Home manager and Head of Care. Home Manager will liaise with referring Social Worker in order to gather more information on the YP; including risk assessment, placement plan, medical history and other looked after children documentation. On the basis that placement suitability is not in question the child or young person will be allocated a key worker who will take the lead role in arranging meetings and initial visit with the responsible social worker, with support from a member of the management team as part of the pre admission process.

Prior to admission, a visit should be arranged for the child or young person, their relative and social worker to the home, to meet the staff and have a look around. The child or young person will be encouraged to express any wish or desire they may have with respect to coming to live at Meridian House. This meeting will be

arranged to ensure the allocated key worker is present to meet the young person. A move-in date will be set following this visit. Where possible, a young person will be given the opportunity to choose which of the bedrooms they want to take up. The room will then be made ready prior to their move-in date.

A further date will be identified for a formal planning meeting where it is our expectation that all professionals who are likely to be involved in delivering or implementing the child or young person's placement/care plan are present, together with parents/carers and any significant others.

Admission

On the day of admission, the key worker or a designated staff member will be assigned to welcome and care for the child on that day. The key worker will orientate the child, parents and family around the home and introduce them to the staff and other young people. When showing them around the home they will be given practical information such as the location of the toilets, bathrooms, phone, fire exits etc. An inventory of the young person's belongings will also be made, a copy signed and dated by the child and their key worker will be kept in young person's personal file. After the family have left, the key worker and staff should be sensitive and support the child or young person to understand and manage the way they may be feeling.

Emergency Admissions

Meridian House does expect that emergency placements may occur and consideration will be given to such requests made by Social Workers and Access to Resources team. In such cases, the referring social worker will ensure that prior to a child or young person coming into the Home, all of the required documentation is received. An interim care plan will be prepared following a discussion with the Social Worker, with the presenting needs having been outlined. Meridian House will carry out its own risk assessment based upon the information received. The social worker will be advised of the need to convene a within 72 hours of admission.