

## **WESTBROOK SHORT BREAK UNIT**

### **LOCAL AREA RISK ASSESSMENT**

Name of Children's home	Westbrook Short Break Unit
Address	55, New Heston road, Hounslow TW5 0LW
Ofsted registration No.	SC032600
Organisation	London Borough of Hounslow
Registered Manager	Rachel-anne Oommen
Tel No	0208 583 6570
Email:	Rachel-anne.Oommen@hounslow.gov.uk
Responsible Individual	Martin Forshaw

New Home. Planning permission being applied for (tick if applicable)	
Existing Home	✓

This report is completed in line with changes to the Children's Home Regulations 2001 (as amended) and the Care

Standards act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010. Regulation 31.

The change to Regulation 31 imposes an additional duty....."to ensure that all homes are suitably located, and this must be risk assessed annually (within the calendar year), involving local agencies, as appropriate.

Author	Rachel-anne Oommen
Designation	Registered Manager
Date	Updated: 17.03.2025

## Westbrook Short Break Unit



## 1. Background

*The Children's Homes and Looked after Children (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2013* introduced the following changes to the *Children's Homes Regulations 2001* and the *Registration Regulations*:

Regulation 31(1A) and (1B) of the *Children's Homes Regulations 2001* introduced a requirement for providers or managers to:

- ensure that premises used for the purposes of a children's home are appropriately and suitably located so that children cared for by the home are:
  - (a) effectively safeguarded, and
  - (b) Able to access services to meet the needs identified in their care or placement plans;
- review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises at least once in every calendar year.

## 2. Aim of children's home location assessments

This location assessment has been completed in relation to Westbrook Short break and resource Unit to review:

- Neighbourhood safeguarding concerns.
- Accessibility of local services.

The assessment considers:

- Whether the location of the Unit influences the potential for an already vulnerable child to be a victim of crime, such as being targeted for sexual exploitation.
- whether there is a likelihood of children placed in the home becoming drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the local area;
- the suitability of the local neighbourhood as a location to care for children who may have already been victims of abuse and neglect;
- whether there are environmental factors that would represent a hazard to children, such as locations near level crossings or busy roads;
- Considers any positive features in the local community that offer benefits to children living at Westbrook. For example, evidence about opportunities for children to participate in leisure, sporting or cultural activities, or links with services that could support the child's ethnic or religious identity.

### 3. Methodology

Westbrook's location assessment is based on consultation with stakeholders, including young people living in the home, the collation of publicly available data and the staff team's existing knowledge and experience of the local area.

As a minimum the following individuals and agencies should be consulted:

- Young people living in the home.
- Local Safeguarding Children's Board

- Police
- Placing authorities
- Local authority children's services

Dependent on the service other individuals and agencies may also be consulted at the discretion of the Registered Manager, these may include:

- Schools and colleges / virtual head
- Youth Offending Service
- Health – CAMHS/

The purpose of this document is to assess the risks associated with the local area surrounding the location of Westbrook Short Break Unit Children's Home, a London Borough of Hounslow local authority home situated in New Heston Rd, Heston, Middlesex, TW5 0LW.

Westbrook Short Break Unit is the only London Borough of Hounslow registered Children's Home for Children with Disabilities. The home is located in a residential street in Heston and the house is distinctive to other surrounding properties. Heston is multi-cultural community that is close to Heathrow Airport, the M4 and Hounslow high street. The unit is in close proximity to variety of local resources and facilities, including local shops, a library, leisure centre and parks.

The Unit occupies a large site and was purpose built in the early 1970's as a Residential Children's Home for children and young people with a disability. The building underwent extensive refurbishment in 2002/3 and has been equipped to provide accommodation suitable for children and young people with physical and learning disabilities.

The service provides short breaks to young people who are predominately between the ages of 10 years to 18 years.

### Safeguarding the Young people:

In order to ensure the safety of the young people at Westbrook a more robust iron gate has been affixed to the front of the property. This was completed in February 2017. This gate is shut and secured each night to ensure that no unknown vehicles park on the premises during the overnight period. Due to the recent Housing Development next to Westbrook and the re-generation of the Local Park and Leisure Centre, there has been an increase in traffic on New Heston Road – a road that leads directly into Westbrook. The new black gate further acts as a safeguarding measure for the young people who access Westbrook and live at Westbrook as it ensures that the young people cannot directly access the main road – especially during fire evacuation drills or if a young person is about to access the community for activities and becomes distressed or tries to leave the group.

The Housing Development is currently not proving to be of concern in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation or the Radicalisation of Young people. This is due to the fact the young people who attend Westbrook do not access the community independently. However, the staff team have raised concerns about how exposed the Unit is in relation to our new neighbours being able to observe / look into Westbrook's garden – where the young people may often have upsets or may strip out of their clothes whilst displaying certain behaviours that challenge. This is currently being managed by the staff team ensuring that they work into their shift planning any contingency plans for the a-fore mentioned behaviours – including supporting the young person in a safe and sensitive manner to manage their upsets according to their behaviour management plans and risk assessments. A future

plan will be to consider taller trees to be planted around the external property to try to alleviate or certainly reduce the Unit's exposure to our new neighbours.

The external site is fitted with 8 CCTV cameras – this system was updated in March 2021. The unit is now also fitted with robust and hardwearing fencing. This was completed in August 2017. The decision was made to replace the fencing which was an original fixture of the property due to wear and tear – panels of the fencing were beginning to crack and sink leading to safeguarding concerns around the young people who are identified as potential absconders attempting to abscond from the cracks in the fence panelling. The fencing was also updated given the new Housing development and the Unit's close proximity to the new flats. Further measures undertaken in relation to the preservation of the young peoples' space and protection of their privacy was the fixing of higher net fencing on the wall adjacent to the trampoline. The foreseeable risk is that the yellow wall is low enough that our younger and more curious neighbours may attempt to jump into the Westbrook playground to access the young peoples' play equipment.

Update: 22.10.21: As a result of an incident involving youths from the local area attempting to kick the front door (one kick and then running away). RAO telephoned the police on 21.10.21. The police advised to observe the CCTV footage and that they would be in touch. What I have ascertained is that it was 4 youths of which one ran up to the blue front door, kicked it once and ran away. From viewing the CCTV footage, Manish and I have agreed that we will put in a request for an upgrade to our CCTV system. The request for this was sent on 22.10.21.

All staff have been reminded about their safety when leaving and entering the service, especially as the winter approaches.

The external wall adjacent to the Trampoline has now been fitted with high fencing – once again taking into consideration the height of the wall and the proximity to the New Housing Development. This high fencing is a further means of safeguarding our Young People from absconding from the building via the garden and will be painted and decorated with bright colours and bright sensory items in order that it looks more inviting to the young people during the warmer months so that it is more durable.

The unit has three visual intercoms linked to the front door of the Unit. All professional visitors to Westbrook are asked to bring their identification badges and are required to present their badges to the member of staff welcoming them into the unit. All visitors to the unit are required to sign in and out of the Unit's Visitor's logbook. The external building is fitted with CCTV cameras which can be viewed via monitors placed in the main shift office.

Westbrook continues to support with Family contact for young people who reside at the home, Social workers complete statutory visits for all young people. Records of visitors attending Westbrook to meet with young people are recorded in the Unit's daily diary and notes pertaining to contact are added to the Local Authority's secure electronic recording system (LCS) in order that the information is shared with the team around the young person.

It is preferred where possible that external visitors attend the Unit in a planned manner to minimise the disruption to the children and young people during their stays.

During the pandemic period visitors to the site have been minimized in order to safeguard young people and staff from immediate exposure to the Covid-19 virus. The service has worked closely with placing local authorities to creatively carry out statutory social workers visits, family contact and multi-disciplinary meetings in



accordance with government and NHS England guidance. This has included virtual visits, sharing pictures and reports with professionals and families and socially distanced family visits in the Westbrook garden and Den.

Non-essential maintenance has been prioritised with all maintenance workers being advised prior to visiting the site of measures that require following whilst on site.

Sanitizing stations have been affixed to the outside and at various stations within the building with written guidance for staff and Child friendly guidance for the children and young people around expectations of visitors and young people to the unit.

A visitor's guide to Westbrook has been developed by the Service, the purpose of the guide is to advise visitors to the service around safeguarding expectations whilst at the service. Within this, visitors are advised about ICT, mobile phone and social media rules and expectations, health, and safety, whom to report concerns around safeguarding and practice to within the service and externally. Posters and guidance are affixed around the unit to advise the young people, staff, and visitors whom to contact should they have a safeguarding concern. These are also completed in child friendly accessible formats (WIDGET) for the young people who access the service.

During this review period it was assessed that a sanitizing station and a face mask station would be affixed to the external door of the building with guidance to visitors and children prior to entering the building. All visitors, children and staff also have their temperature recorded upon entry to the service.

### Missing from Care:

Westbrook support children and young people with a disability. Due to the severity of their needs, the young people have person-centred risk assessments in place which document the level of care and supervision they require. The young people are weighted as requiring either one to one or two to one support and as such are always supervised.

During planning meetings and staff meetings, Staff discuss and put in place robust risk assessments and support plans in order to ensure that young people at risk of absconding are kept safe in our care due to their additional vulnerabilities. Although Westbrook is not a secure unit, staff ensure that a named person on each shift is responsible for holding the 3 sets of unit keys. Staff ensure that they follow the unit protocol of reporting if the keys are misplaced as soon as possible. The Unit has a 'lock down system', which is put in place each night. The lock down system is automatically released should the fire alarm sound. These doors are checked after each unit fire drill is completed to ensure that they are in full working order.

Security of the building is maintained through the front door that can only be opened by use of a key (unless the fire alarm is activated). All windows are fitted with window locks and restrictors. The service also has a movement monitoring alarm which is activated on specific doors entrances, this device can be used to alert staff if a child/young person has left that area. The service also can lock all doors leading out to the external area of the grounds (where deemed necessary and appropriate), however if the fire alarm was to activate, the doors would open to aid an escape in the event of a fire. These measures are in place to ensure the safety of the children and young people staying at Westbrook and are not designed to restrict liberty.

Should an episode occur where a child becomes missing the following documents are in place:

- Missing from Care pre-assessment
- Grab packs
- Behaviour Risk assessments
- Activity Risk assessments

These documents are part of the young person's file when they start receiving a service at Westbrook. The documents are reviewed and updated as a result of short break reviews or if a specific need is identified for the young person.

Currently, none of the young people at Westbrook travel independently. All young people who are identified as potential absconders have a robust and up to date missing from care grab pack and risk assessment on file which is then disseminated to the staff team during team briefings/ staff circulars. Staff team have been enrolled on to the Virtual College and The Safeguarding Network's training programs on-line during the pandemic period to access training and learning. This includes:

- Level 3 Safeguarding Children
- E-Safety
- LGBTQ Awareness
- Female Genital Mutilation and Abuse linked to Faith or Belief
- Toxic Trio – Hidden Harm, Parental Mental Health, Parental Substance Misuse
- Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Gang related issues and County lines
- Child Exploitation
- Modern Slavery and Trafficking

- Radicalisation and Extremism

As a result of a young person (emergency placement) becoming fixated on the fence at the back of the garden and subsequently climbing over the fence on 31.03.21, a quote has been submitted to the Local Authority to re-fence the back of the property. As an interim measure, the handy person has raised all areas of fencing that have been assessed as a potential climbing aid. These are sheer fortified wood panels, with no foot holds or grips to aid the young person to climb over the fence. Robust risk assessments are in place to ensure the safety of this young person whilst in the building and also whilst out in the community.

### **The Prevent strategy in Hounslow**

“Safeguarding vulnerable people from Radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm”

Prevent is part of Central Government’s counter terrorism strategy CONTEST.

The Prevent Strategy aims to stop people becoming radicalized and being drawn into terrorism in all its forms.

Hounslow has a statutory duty to:

“...have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”

In Hounslow our Prevent Team is part of the Community Partnerships Unit

The team focuses on these three key areas:

- Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it
- Preventing individuals from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of Radicalisation that we need to address

### Channel

Is a programme which provides support at an early stage to people who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism and potentially take part in illegal terrorist activities.

### **Contact details for Prevent in Hounslow**

PC Gary McGinn; Hounslow Prevent

Email: [gary.mcgin@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gary.mcgin@met.pnn.police.uk)

Joan Conlon Community Inclusion and Participation Manager (Prevent Lead)

Mobile 07817 079190|

Email [joan.conlon@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:joan.conlon@hounslow.gov.uk)

Najeeb Ahmed Prevent Coordinator

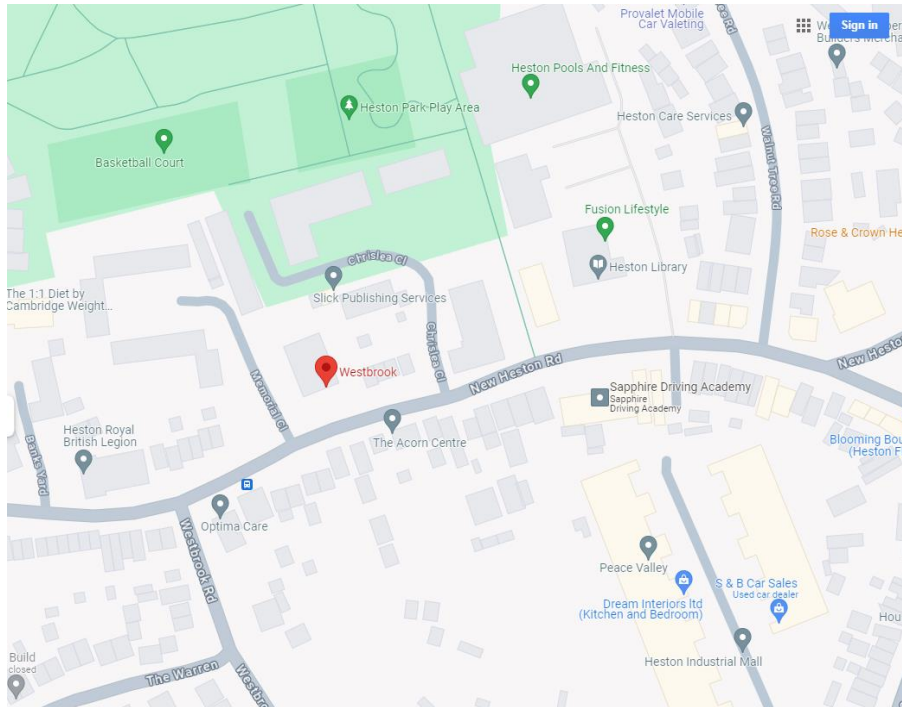
Mobile 07890 540433

Email [najeeb.ahmed@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:najeeb.ahmed@hounslow.gov.uk)

The team at Westbrook are conversant with the requirements under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. They have also accessed the Home Office and DfE approved WRAP3 (workshop to raise awareness of Prevent) training which provides them with sufficient knowledge and information to support them in carrying out and having '*due regard*' to prevent our young / vulnerable service users and staff from being drawn into terrorism. This took place in September 6<sup>th</sup> 2017.

The Unit's Safeguarding Policy has been amended to include this information. The safeguarding policy amendment is supported by access to a team within the Local Authority and relevant police team, who provide expert advice, information and support allowing them to feel able and willing to make any referrals necessary to prevent our vulnerable children and their parents and carers from becoming susceptible to becoming violently radicalised. The policy is applied using reason and tact and most importantly a pragmatic approach to safeguarding.

## Map and statistics for the Local area:



## Crime Rates in New Heston Road, Hounslow, TW5 0LW

Crime Rate  
82.8

Low 3/10

Last updated: 31.01.2025

Annual total crime rate in this local area is **82.8** per thousand population. This can be rated as 3 out of 10 or **low** crime level.

Annual total crime rate in Hounslow is **118.1** per thousand population, which can be rated as 6 out of 10 or **medium** crime level. This data is taken from data.police.uk.

social behaviour		
28.7		6/10
Violence and sexual offences		
20.3		3/10
Other theft		
6.54		3/10
Burglary		
4.72		4/10
Criminal damage and arson		
4.72		3/10
Vehicle crime		
4.72		3/10
Public order		
4.36		2/10
Drugs		
3.63		4/10
Bicycle theft		



1.45	4/10
Robbery	
1.09	3/10
Theft from the person	
1.09	2/10
Possession of weapons	
0.726	3/10
Other crime	
0.726	2/10
Shoplifting	
0	1/10

### Positive Features of the local community:

Heston has recently been re-generated with beautiful Local Park and State of the Art Leisure Centre. The young people have the ability to attend a local kid's Karate club and church youth centre. Heston has two churches, and the Sikh temple and Mosque are a short journey away by public transport or by car. The local community

have a number of small shops for young people to attend and practice their budgeting skills (or even just for some treats)! Hounslow High Street is a short bus journey away and is accessible via two different local bus routes. There are a number of local take away restaurants and one local Indian restaurant that the young people enjoy attending.

#### 4. Consultation with local services

Agency	Date letter/enquiry sent/made	Date response received*Where no response received list follow up calls/emails etc.	Summary of concerns expressed	Notes
<b>The Local Policing Team</b>	<p>The address of local Police station is: 3-5 Montague Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 1LB TW4 6JQ</p> <p>Contact number: 020 8247 6063</p> <p>Email address: <a href="mailto:heston.central.ward@met.police.uk">heston.central.ward@met.police.uk</a></p>	Automated replay informing us that someone from the team will get in touch.	The aim of sending the email is to introduce the home and staff to our local community team and to invite them to visit and meet with the manager to discuss the area Risk Assessment in relation to any concerns they may want to share with our home that may	The named officer within the team is: Acting Sargent Stuart Dale, Police Constable Annabelle Perkin and Police Community Support Officer Nicola Martin-Stone.

			impinge upon the smooth operation of the home.	
<b>Police crime website</b>	Accessed		A copy of the crime statistics has been downloaded into this document with information relating to crime figures within the area.	
<b>Community Inclusion and Participation Manager (Prevent Lead)</b>	Mobile 07817 079190  Email <a href="mailto:joan.conlon@hounslow.gov.uk">joan.conlon@hounslow.gov.uk</a>			Joan and I have set up training for the Staff team around Prevent Duty and the Radicalisation of vulnerable young people – Date of training 05.03.25 - <b>Completed</b>
<b>Link Co-ordinator for CSE</b>	Gemma Ross	Contacted		Further training refreshers have been completed via the virtual college due to the pandemic. <b>Completed</b>
<b>Local Authority's Designated Officers for Safeguarding</b>	<b>Sarah Paltenghi &amp; Grace Murphy</b>  0208 583 3423 0208 583 4933	Contacted		Refresher training completed on 22.01.25. <b>Completed</b>
<b>Community Police Team</b>	<b>Contact: PCS Ramona and Nicola</b> <b>0208 583 2105 / 079444 95880</b>	Contacted		PCS Ramon and Nicola have visited

				a team training session on the role of the Community Police and how they can support Staff at Westbrook
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5.

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood of risk(L/M/H)</b>	<b>Severity of risk(L/M/H)</b>	<b>Overall risk score</b>	<b>Protective factors</b>	<b>Risk Management plan</b>	<b>Individuals Involved</b>
<b>Child Sexual exploitation</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>4</b>	Staff work closely with young people to build positive relationships and make them feel cared for in a homely environment. All care staff are robustly trained in the recognition of sexual exploitation and the tools to use when discussing this with young people. This also includes internet use and safe practice and knowing what to do in the event of someone attempting to communicate with them whilst using the internet.	Where sexual exploitation is suspected the manager assesses the risks to other residents and takes appropriate action to ensure other residents or youth club attendees are not put at risk. This may entail the use of additional staff to supervise the young people and service offered.	All staff  LA(DO) Sarah Paltenghi & Grace Murphy  0208 583 3423 0208 583 4933  LADO Duty Number: 0208 583 5730  Link Co-ordinator for Child Sexual Exploitation: Lianne Conway CWD team.

						<b>Parents and family members of young people receiving a service at Westbrook</b>
<b>Young people travelling independently</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>None at present</b>		
<b>Gang related activity</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>The home has established links with community police and YOT services and close communication to share information and highlight any community tensions or individuals which may pose a threat. The youth club attendees are supported in arriving and leaving the club either taken home by staff using the van or parents collect them.</b>	<b>Young people are always accompanied by a staff member when out in the community. Staff will inform local police if they suspect any gang activity in the immediate area. Staff will also make parents aware of any concerns relating to gangs in the area</b>	<b>Police. Local community beat officers. YOT All Staff</b>
<b>Crime</b>	<b>Low/medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Demonstrated on the Police crime statistics.</b>	<b>Staff follow the homes safety and security procedures each</b>	<b>Waking night staff Police</b>

					<p>night ensuring the home is locked and kept safe. A waking night staff member is always in the home during nighttime hours, along with a second member of staff on-call in the Unit during the night.</p>	
<p>Anti social behaviour of residents impacting on local community</p>	Low	Low	2	<p>Some young people may display different forms of challenging behaviour at times when they may be agitated or stressed, staff are fully trained in managing challenging and difficult behaviours</p>	<p>All young people have a behaviour risk assessment, and all staff are professionally trained in the use of physical interventions and calming and defusing strategies.</p>	All staff members
<p>Anti social behaviour of others impacting on the young people placed at Westbrook</p>	Low/medium	Low / Medium	4	<p>Westbrook has excellent security measures in place including CCTV and window locks which will prevent uninvited guests from loitering outside or entering the</p>		All staff members

				<p>premises.</p> <p>In February 2017 Westbrook installed a further external protective measure by means of a secure gate at the front of the property.</p>		
<b>Substance Misuse</b>	<b>low</b>	<b>low</b>	<b>2</b>	<p>Westbrook is a drug / alcohol and substance misuse free area. All staff are trained in the recognition and referral process for concerns re substance misuse and how to discuss issues with young people.</p>	<p>Any young people known to abuse drugs/alcohol or other substances are referred to Visions; the substance misuse team for under 18's in Hounslow. Young people can be taught in Keywork sessions and residents' meetings the impact that substance misuse can have on them and the increased risk to</p>	<p><b>EDT</b></p> <p><b>Registered Manager – RAO</b></p> <p><b>Responsible Individual – Martin Forshaw</b></p> <p><b>LADO - Sarah Paltenghi &amp; Grace Murphy</b></p> <p><b>0208 583 3423</b> <b>0208 583 4933</b></p> <p><b>LADO Duty Number: 0208 583 5730</b></p>

					themselves when they are under the influence of substances.	Link Co-ordinator for Child Sexual Exploitation: Ms Gemma Ross
Young people going missing from Westbrook	Low	Low	2	<p>The home has a very low unauthorised and missing person record and as such, the home has established links with police officers within missing persons team.</p> <p>Every child attending Westbrook has a GRAB pack (missing from care) information pack completed and available in case we are presented with a situation where a child may become missing in our care.</p>	<p>Staff follow LSCB child protection procedures and LB Hounslow's missing from care protocols when a young person goes missing. Westbrook has agreed local procedures in place since the implementation of Hounslow's grab pack.</p>	<p>Police 999 EDT Registered Manager – RAO</p> <p>Responsible Individual – Martin Forshaw</p> <p>LADO - Sarah Paltenghi &amp; Grace Murphy</p> <p>0208 583 3423 0208 583 4933</p> <p>LADO Duty Number: 0208 583 5730</p> <p>Link Co-</p>



						<b>ordinator for Child Sexual Exploitation: Lianne Conway</b>
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Risk scoring criteria: - High=3; medium= 2; low= 1. This scoring applies to both the likelihood and severity of risk. The overall risk score is obtained by adding both these scores together.