



HND Children's Care
Unit 1 Eagle Works
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Stoke-On-Trent
England
ST6 2LE
Tel: 07495957773

Home Name: Hamida House

Provider: HND Children's Care Ltd.

Address: 2 Earlswood Road, Birches Head, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6UF

Home Type: One-bed solo placement children's home

Evacuation Strategy

Purpose of the Evacuation Strategy

The purpose of this Evacuation Strategy is to ensure that all children, staff, visitors, and professionals at Hamida House can be evacuated safely and efficiently in the event of a fire, smoke risk, gas leak, environmental hazard, medical emergency, or any other situation requiring immediate evacuation of the property.

As Hamida House operates as a one-child solo placement residential children's home, evacuation arrangements are designed to remain individualised, trauma-informed, proportionate, and responsive to the specific emotional, behavioural, developmental, and safeguarding needs of the child placed within the home.

The strategy aims to:

- Protect life and ensure the safety of children, staff, visitors, and professionals.
- Ensure staff understand their roles and responsibilities during emergencies.
- Provide clear evacuation procedures for both day and night-time situations.
- Reduce panic, confusion, and risk during emergency situations.
- Ensure evacuation arrangements remain suitable for children with complex needs or vulnerabilities.
- Ensure compliance with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, Health and Safety legislation, and fire safety requirements.

Property Layout and Evacuation Considerations

Hamida House is a detached two-bedroom bungalow operating as a one-child solo placement children's home. The property consists of:

- One child's bedroom
- One staff sleep-in / office room
- Lounge / communal living area
- Kitchen and dining area
- Bathroom facilities
- Hallway and entrance areas
- Secure rear garden
- Only 1 Entrance

As the property is a bungalow, all primary rooms are situated on one level, which supports straightforward and accessible evacuation procedures during emergencies.

The home benefits from clear exit routes through both the front and rear of the property. Staff will ensure all exits, hallways, and access routes remain clear and unobstructed at all times.

Staffing Arrangements During Emergencies

Hamida House operates twenty-four hours per day with waking night staffing arrangements in place. Staffing arrangements include:

- One waking night staff member remaining awake throughout the night.
- One sleep-in staff member available within the property.
- Additional staffing where required based on risk assessment or safeguarding needs.
- An out-of-hours on-call management system for additional support and guidance.

The waking night staff member will take immediate lead responsibility during night-time emergencies until additional support is available.

Evacuation Procedure

In the event of a fire alarm activation or emergency requiring evacuation:

1. Staff will immediately assess the situation while remaining calm and professional.
2. The child will be informed clearly and supported to evacuate the property safely using the nearest safe exit route.
3. Staff will guide the child directly to the designated assembly point.
4. Staff will not stop to collect unnecessary personal belongings unless essential for immediate safety.
5. If safe to do so, doors may be closed behind staff to help reduce the spread of smoke or fire.
6. Staff will ensure all persons within the property are accounted for.
7. Emergency services will be contacted immediately by dialling 999.
8. The Registered Manager or on-call manager will be informed as soon as practicable.
9. No person will re-enter the property until authorised to do so by the Fire and Rescue Service.

Individual Child Evacuation Planning

As Hamida House operates as a solo placement home, evacuation arrangements will always consider the individual needs, behaviours, vulnerabilities, and emotional presentation of the child placed within the home.

Individual evacuation planning may consider:

- Emotional dysregulation
- Trauma-related responses
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Sensory sensitivities
- Learning difficulties
- Reduced mobility
- Sleep difficulties
- Fire-setting behaviours
- Resistance to evacuation
- Missing-from-home risks

- Mental health concerns
- Communication difficulties

Where additional support measures are required, these will be clearly reflected within the child's risk assessments, care planning documentation, safeguarding arrangements, and individual evacuation plans.

Staff will use calm communication, reassurance, therapeutic support, and de-escalation techniques to support the child safely during emergencies.

Refusal to Evacuate

The home recognises that some children may become frightened, distressed, dysregulated, anxious, or resistant during emergency situations.

Where a child refuses to evacuate, staff will:

- Use calm and reassuring communication.
- Use therapeutic and de-escalation approaches.
- Encourage evacuation without escalating distress unnecessarily.
- Prioritise life safety at all times.
- Use professional judgement where immediate risks to life exist.

Any physical intervention used during an emergency would only ever be proportionate, necessary, and used as a last resort to protect life or prevent serious harm.

Night-Time Evacuation Arrangements

Night-time evacuation arrangements are supported through waking night staffing and sleep-in arrangements.

The waking night staff member is responsible for:

- Immediate response to alarms or emergencies.
- Supporting the child to evacuate safely.
- Alerting the sleep-in staff member where necessary.
- Contacting emergency services.
- Completing headcounts and safety checks.

Children presenting with increased night-time risks, sleep difficulties, emotional distress, or behaviours affecting evacuation safety will have these needs reflected within their individual evacuation planning and risk assessments.

Assembly Point

The designated emergency assembly point for Hamida House is:

Front pavement area opposite the property or another agreed safe location away from the building.

At the assembly point, staff will:

- Ensure all persons are accounted for.
- Supervise and emotionally support the child.
- Contact emergency services where necessary.
- Notify the Registered Manager or on-call manager.
- Await further instruction from emergency services.

Fire Safety Systems

The home is fitted with appropriate fire safety systems and equipment, including:

- Interlinked smoke alarms
- Heat detectors in kitchen areas
- Carbon monoxide detectors where required
- Fire extinguishers
- Fire blanket in the kitchen
- Emergency lighting where applicable
- Clearly accessible exit routes
- Fire safety signage where appropriate

All fire safety equipment will be regularly tested, serviced, and maintained in accordance with legislation and fire safety guidance.

Fire Drills and Practice Evacuations

Fire drills and evacuation practices will take place:

- At least monthly
- Following admission of a new child where appropriate

- Following staffing changes where necessary
- At varying times, including night-time scenarios where appropriate
- Following any fire-related incident or concern

Records of drills will include:

- Date and time
- Staff involved
- Evacuation times
- Any difficulties identified
- Actions required or learning outcomes

Children will be prepared for fire drills in a supportive, trauma-informed, and age-appropriate manner to minimise distress or anxiety.

Visitors and Contractors

Visitors, professionals, and contractors attending the home will be expected to follow emergency evacuation procedures and staff instructions during emergencies.

Contractors undertaking works involving electrical systems, heat sources, or fire-related risks will be appropriately monitored and risk assessed to ensure safety within the home.

Review of the Evacuation Strategy

This Evacuation Strategy will be reviewed:

- Annually as a minimum
- Following any evacuation or fire incident
- Following significant changes to the property
- Following changes to staffing or operational arrangements
- Following changes to the child's needs or risks
- Following recommendations from professionals, inspectors, or the Fire and Rescue Service

Date of Review: _____

Reviewed By: _____

Signature: _____