

About the application

Application number: 2025/90003	
What is the application for?:	Change of use from dwelling (C3) to children's residential home (C2)
Address of the site or building:	14, Harefield Drive, Birstall, Batley, WF17 0PQ
Postcode:	WF13 2DH

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

I would like to add my concerns about the impact having a children's home in a residential location at 14 Harefield Drive.

I feel it will impact negatively causing traffic and other negative problems. The proposer says the children will be monitored on a 1:1 basis. Yet it also says between 10pm - 10am only one member of staff will be on duty. You are led to believe there will only be 3 members of staff coming or going, but I believe the number is going to be double this, unless the 3 members of staff are going to work 70 hours a week. I realise only 3 staff will be on duty each day.

I have worked in two children's homes and besides the staff caring for the children there were always other staff involved, cleaners, cooks, laundry and garden staff. I see no mention of these. which would increase the problem of people coming and going and more cars parking up. If the carers are to do these jobs then they will not be able to monitor the children on a 1:1 basis. Also I would like to add while I worked in children's homes, regular meetings of staff and social worker were held to discuss children's progress, needs and any problems that may have arisen. This makes sense in a caring situation, but this would also mean if the meeting was held at the house there would be an increase of the number of cars coming and create more congestion and parking problems for other residents.

I would also like to comment on the negative effect to the area when the shift change over happens at 10 pm. You will have three cars manoeuvring in the street, the two staff leaving and the one member of staff starting at 10pm. This will impact on families near by who have young children sleeping.

They also say the children will be monitored at all times. Yet they say the children will be allowed out into the community and monitoring will be by phone. Therefore when allowed out into the community they can not guarantee what they might be doing.

Also if you give permission for change of use you can not guarantee that they would not increase the number of children from two. The two main rooms are large enough to take two children in each. When I worked in a children's home one room had three children in it, as they were from the same family. This would make matters even worse for the residents. Or even at a later date they could apply to extend the house at the side so they could accommodate more children. These children come from either broken homes, have drink or drug related problems, or have been anti social and put into care.

So you can see if you give permission this might only be the tip of the iceberg, we all know what lays beneath it, a greater mass and this could happen if you allow this planning application to go ahead.

I wish you to note my concerns while appraising the suitability for the change of use of a residential home to a children's home and consider what might be the consequences if you were to give permission for it to go ahead.