

Consultation Response from KC Children - Commissioning
2025/92612 1A, Park Drive South, Huddersfield, HD1 4HT
Change of use from residential (C3) to a children's residential care home (C2) (within a Conservation Area)
Date Responded: 11th November 2025
Responding Officer: Gary Wainwright, Children's Commissioning Manager
Responding Ref:
RE: Change of use from residential (C3) to a children's residential care home (C2) (within a Conservation Area)

Thank you for your request for consultation regarding the above application. I have reviewed the application and supporting documentation available via the Planning Portal.

The **Planning Application** states: *"The proposed children's home will provide care and accommodation for up to two children (aged under 18) who require a supportive and stable home environment. Care will be delivered in line with Ofsted regulations and local authority requirements."*
 The **Management Plan** states: *"The proposed children's home will accommodate up to 2 children aged 7–17 years."*

Kirklees Children's Service have not been approached by the applicant, therefore how does the applicant know the new children's home will be in line with local authority requirements. Kirklees Children's Service aim to place all young children in family settings (Kinship Care or Fostering), our current limited children's home placement need is for older teenage children. Without prior conversations with Kirklees Children's Service I am not assured the proposed new home is in line with Kirklees Children's Service, children's home placement needs.

"The home will be staffed by a small team of residential care workers, consisting of two to a maximum of four staff members on shift at any one time, including the registered manager, to ensure 24-hour care and supervision." Four staff being on shift is not comparable to a small family unit.

The **Management Plan** states; *"staff will range from 2 to a maximum of 4 staff members"* The proposed plans only show one staff bedroom. The management plan does not make clear overnight staff sleeping arrangements.

Kirklees Children's Home Market - There is a significant over provision of children's homes in Kirklees that far exceeds our children's home placement needs. We have seen a significant growth in new children's homes opening over the last three years. The over provision of children's home provision in Kirklees leads to children from other local authorities being placed in Kirklees, this is not in line with government policy; [Keeping children safe, helping families thrive - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/keeping-children-safe-and-helping-families-thrive)

The government proposes *"as part of Ofsted's registration assessment for new provision, we are going to strengthen the location assessment by including a requirement for an application to register a children's home be accompanied by an endorsement from the relevant children's services team that they have determined that there is a local need for the proposed children's home. This will give local authorities a greater say on the type and quantity of provision they need in their area and will allow Ofsted to refuse registration where provision is deemed not needed."*

Therefore based on the information in the planning application Kirklees Children's Service does NOT support this application and respectfully request that it is refused.

Kirklees Children's Service are keen to work in partnership with providers to ensure only the right, high quality provisions in the right locations that meets our placement needs are developed in Kirklees.

We encourage all providers who want to work with Kirklees Children's Services to get in touch at the earliest opportunity to discuss your proposal / plans and make sure they meet our needs.

Please contact: Childrens.Commissioning@kirklees.gov.uk