Consultation Response from KC Children - Commissioning

2025/92872 24, Thornleigh Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, HD4 5PY

Change of use from residential dwelling (Class C3) to children's care home (Class C2) with hip to gable alteration and erection of rear dormer

Date Responded: 11th November 2025
Responding Officer: Gary Wainwright, Children's Commissioning Manager
Responding Ref:

Re: Change of use from residential dwelling (Class C3) to children's care home (Class C2) with hip to gable alteration and erection of rear dormer

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 proposed home is for "*Two children aged between the ages of 7 and 17 years old."* This is not in line with Kirklees Children's Service, children's home placement needs. We 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.

The **planning statement** states;
"*A minimum of 2 staff on duty at all times. The home manager will also be based at the home during the hours of 9 am - 5 pm."*
"The staff team consists of 6 - 7 X Full Time Residential Childcare Workers (including Team Leaders)"
"*The home will have a number of professional visitors to the home*."
"*There is sufficient parking for 2 cars on site. Staff will be encouraged to use public transport to travel to and from work*".
We do not agree there will be sufficient parking, staff handover times will mean 4-5 staff will be onsite. Staff meetings will consist of 7-8 staff being onsite. Where will professional park when visiting.

"*Staff work a shift system whereby a minimum of two staff sleep each night*."
The proposed plans show only one staff bedroom, that is not sufficient for the proposed minimum of 2 staff sleeping staff. There is only one bathroom in the proposed plans for both children and staff.

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**

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 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