Consultation Response from KC Children - Commissioning
2026/90086 2 Mavis Street, Scout Hill, Dewsbury, WF13 3RX
Change of use of existing dwelling (C3) to children's residential home (C2)
Date Responded: 9th February 2026
Responding Officer: Gary Wainwright
Responding Ref:

RE: Change of use of existing dwelling (C3) to children's residential home (C2)

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

Kirklees Children's Service have not been approached by the applicant regarding this proposal, our concerns regarding the application are;

- The type of children's home being proposed is not in line with our placement needs, and we do not feel the type of property (end terrace) is suitable for the proposed client group.

- It is not clear from the photos provided what facilities are provided so we are unable to confirm if they are suitable for the type of children's home being proposed.

- The Management Plan makes clear a visitor policy which states; "*We will be operating a policy on no more than one visitor at one time and these will be professionals only*". We do not support this approach, we reserve the right to visit children's homes as and when we deem necessary (announced and unannounced), this may be by more than one professional.

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 majority of the new home are not in line with our children's home requirements. 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 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