

Consultation Response from KC,
Crime Prevention

2026/90484 143, Church Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, BD19 4QN

Change of use from dwelling to C2 for 4 children, erection of first floor extension and front porch, internal and external alterations

Date Responded:18/03/26

Responding Officer: Children's Commissioning

Responding Ref:

RE - Change of use from dwelling to C2 for 4 children, erection of first floor extension and front porch, internal and external alterations

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 are not aware of any initial enquiry by the applicant regarding this proposal. Our comments regarding the application are;

- The type of children's home being proposed is not in line with our placement needs. A four-bed model is not aligned to our sufficiency priorities, which prioritise smaller homes with strong evidence of therapeutic and trauma-informed practice. We have significant over provision of the type of children's home being proposed that far exceeds our children's home needs.
- Insufficient information has been provided regarding the proposed provider's experience, Ofsted registration status, and ability to deliver high-quality, trauma-informed residential care.

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](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.

Kirklees Children's Service are keen to work in partnership with providers to ensure only the right, high quality, value for money 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 before submitting a planning application to discuss your proposal / plans and make sure they meet our needs.**

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