

PLANNING SUPPORTING STATEMENT

location	Greenfields Family Centre, Dalton Green Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD5 9TR.
application	Erection of Extensions and Alterations to Greenfields Childcare
client/applicant	Greenfields Childcare (C/O Penny Smith)
job number	25/1276
date	January 2026

Ltd
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INTRODUCTION

Greenfields Daycare Centre has served local families in Dalton, Huddersfield since 2000. The centre provides vital childcare services, including a Breakfast Club and After School Club for children aged 3–11, a Preschool for children aged 2–4, and a Holiday Club for children aged 3–11. Around 250 local families currently rely on Greenfields' services, and both the Preschool and out of school club operate at full capacity each year, with up to 100 children attending daily.

KMC, as all local authorities, have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare and early education places to support local families, enable parents/carers to work or train, and ensure entitlement to free early education and care is met. Kirklees publishes a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to monitor supply and demand and identify gaps in local childcare provision.

Across Kirklees there were an estimated 9,428 Ofsted-registered childcare places for 0–4-year-olds in mid-2024, reflecting the scale of the childcare market locally. In addition, broader data for England shows the number of registered childcare places increased recently but remains under pressure to meet rising demand and policy-led expansions such as the Government's 30-hours free childcare entitlement for working parents of children from nine months old. This policy expansion is projected to require tens of thousands of additional childcare places and staff nationally to deliver in full.

Greenfields is operated as a charity by a parent committee and works flexibly to meet local needs while keeping fees affordable. It currently employs 15 staff (which is likely to increase subject to this application being supported and approved). Despite the high and sustained demand for places, the existing building footprint and layout limit the number of children the centre can accommodate and restrict the ability to offer additional services that meet evolving community and policy requirements.

The proposals contained within this application are therefore driven by both local demand and strategic childcare priorities. The development will increase capacity to accommodate more children and reduce pressure on existing waiting lists, helping more families access early years and childcare, support the delivery of Government policy on expanded childcare entitlements (including 30-hours provision) by creating the physical space needed to accept eligible children and recruit additional qualified staff, provide a dedicated meeting room and improved staff facilities to support safeguarding conversations, staff training, and welfare requirements that are currently constrained by the existing layout and deliver additional essential storage and operational space required as services and numbers of children continue to grow.

The proposed works will establish an appropriately sized meeting room and enhanced staff accommodation, addressing critical operational needs and facilitate community use of the space. In addition to the proposed meeting room the larger extension will allow the extension of the playroom, enabling increased capacity for children and recruitment of further staff.

The proposed development represents a sustainable investment in childcare infrastructure that directly supports the needs of local families, contributes to local workforces, enhances early years outcomes, and aligns with statutory sufficiency duties and wider national policy imperatives.

LOCATION

The application site is located in Dalton, Huddersfield. The site comprises an established day care centre that has operated continuously since 2000 and forms a long-standing and well-recognised community facility within the local area.

The premises is well located in a dense residential location adjacent to Dalton Junior and infant School. The building is served by a large car park that is separate to the adjacent school premises. Most children live very local to the application site and are therefore walked to the premises by parent/carers. Most staff are also locally based but some do drive to work. We contend the proposed extensions raise no concerns in relation to vehicle movements/highways.

Dalton is a predominantly residential area of Huddersfield, characterised by a mix of traditional housing, local services, schools, and community uses. The surrounding area includes family housing of varying types and ages, making the location particularly well suited to the continued provision of childcare services. The site is therefore sustainably located to serve the daily needs of local families.

The day care centre occupies a generous plot and is set back from principal street line, with mature trees and landscaping providing visual screening and contributing positively to the character of the area. The building itself is low-rise and modest in scale, with a pitched roof form that reflects the character of neighbouring development.

Access to the site is well established and unchanged by the proposals. The location benefits from good pedestrian connectivity to nearby residential streets and is within easy walking distance for many families using the facility. This reduces reliance on private car travel and supports sustainable travel patterns consistent with national and local planning objectives.

The surrounding uses are compatible with the operation of a childcare facility, and the site has operated without adverse impacts on residential amenity for over two decades. The established nature of the use means the proposed development represents an enhancement of an existing community asset rather than the introduction of a new or unfamiliar activity into the area.

Importantly, the site's location within a residential catchment supports the role of the centre in providing accessible, local childcare, enabling parents and carers to balance work, training, and family life. The proposals seek to reinforce this role by improving and expanding facilities on a site that is already proven to be suitable, accessible, and accepted within its surroundings.

PROPOSALS

The proposed works involve alterations and extensions to the existing day care centre building, as illustrated on the submitted floor plans and elevations.

In summary, the development includes:

- Reconfiguration and extension of internal spaces to improve the functionality of playrooms, staff areas, and ancillary accommodation.
- Limited external extensions that remain subservient to the host building.
- Retention of the overall scale, height, and character of the existing building.
- Continued use of the site as a day care centre, with no change of use proposed.

The design has a simple, pitched-roof form and materials that match or complement the existing building, ensuring visual continuity and a cohesive appearance.

The proposal comprises a phased extension to the existing Greenfields Daycare Centre, as shown on the submitted drawings. The development is intended to improve the functionality and capacity of the established childcare facility while remaining proportionate in scale and sympathetic to the existing building.

The proposed development comprises of a dedicated meeting room, improved staff facilities, and additional storage. The meeting room will allow for private discussions with parents, safeguarding meetings, and staff training, addressing an identified shortfall in the existing accommodation. The space may also be made available for community use when not required by the centre. Additional storage is essential to support the safe and efficient operation of the facility as services continue to expand.

The larger extension involves the extension of the existing playroom to increase childcare capacity. This will enable the centre to accommodate additional children, recruit further staff, and fully support the Government's expanded 30-hours childcare entitlement, including provision for children aged nine months and above.

The extensions are modest in scale, remain subservient to the host building, and reflect its existing form, roof profile, and materials. Site access arrangements and the overall use of the site remain unchanged, and existing landscaped areas are largely retained.

We contend that the project is exempt from BNG as the larger extension is located on an existing hard surfaced area (tarmac) which has a zero habitat value. The smaller, meeting room extension, does encroach onto a small grassed area but the area of this encroachment is significantly less than 25sqm. Given Greenfield is a charity and the two proposed extensions are totally separate/independent we trust a pragmatic approach can be made to this BNG aspect. Naturally we are more than willing to discuss any suggested ecology enhancements as part of the scheme.

Overall, the proposals represent a proportionate enhancement of a long-established community facility, delivering clear social and operational benefits while respecting the character of the site and its surroundings.

PLANNING POLICY

Paragraph 100 of the NPPF highlights the significance of early years childcare and education by stating:

“It is important that a sufficient choice of early years, school and post-16 places are available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

a) give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter early years, schools and post-16 facilities through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and

b) work with early years, school and post-16 promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.”

We believe that the proposals are providing an enhancement to existing services in the Dalton, and surrounding areas. The proposals aim to allow the centre to provide a greater level of service and expand on the existing.

Further emphasis on this matter is also present in paragraph 101 which states:

“To ensure faster delivery of other public service infrastructure such as health, blue light, library, adult education, university and criminal justice facilities, local planning authorities should also work proactively and positively with promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to plan for required facilities and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted. Significant weight should be placed on the importance of new, expanded or upgraded public service infrastructure when considering proposals for development.”

Kirklees Local Plan Policy LP48 States:

“Community facilities should be provided in accessible locations where they can minimise the need to travel or they can be made accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. This will normally be in town, district or local centres. Proposals will be supported for development that protects, retains or enhances provision, quality or accessibility of existing community, education, leisure and cultural facilities that meets the needs of all members of the community. Where community facilities are provided as an integral part of a development, they should wherever possible be within adaptable mixed-use buildings”

The proposal seeks to protect and enhance local community facilities and supports proposals that improve the accessibility and quality of such facilities.

APPEARANCE

The following materials are proposed:

Walls	-	External blockwork as existing
Roof	-	Insulated roof panels to match existing in appearance.
Rainwater Goods	-	Upvc guttering & downpipes to match existing.
Windows & Doors	-	White UPVC as existing

MEANS OF ACCESS

The access will remain unchanged.

LAYOUT

The proposed drawings indicate the layout.

LANDSCAPING

Unaffected by the proposals.

SCALE

The scale of the building will increase in line with the proposed drawings.

CONCLUSION

The proposed works to the existing day care centre represent a well-considered and proportionate form of development. The scheme enhances the functionality and quality of the facility while respecting the character of the existing building and its surroundings.

There are no adverse impacts on neighbouring amenity, highway safety, or visual character, and the proposals fully comply with relevant planning policy. For these reasons, it is respectfully requested that planning permission is granted.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the proposal fully accords with the development plan and national planning policy and should be granted planning permission without delay.

Should any further information be required please don't hesitate to contact us.

It would be appreciated if you could contact Paul Matthews Architectural Ltd prior to drafting up your recommendation for determination.