

Consultation Response from KC Children - Commissioning
2026/91547 28, Sylvan Ridge, Huddersfield, HD2 1ZH
Change of use of residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to childrens care home for up to two children (Use Class C2) and external alterations to form additional parking area
Date Responded: 14/07/26
Responding Officer: Children's Commissioning Team
Responding Ref:

Thank you for your request for consultation regarding the above application.

I have reviewed the application and supporting information via the planning portal. The proposed development is a children's home accommodating up to two children aged between 7 and 17 years. Kirklees Children's Services is committed to ensuring that children are cared for in the most appropriate setting to meet their individual needs. Wherever possible, younger children are supported within family-based arrangements, including kinship care and fostering. Residential children's homes are generally required for a smaller cohort of children and young people whose needs cannot be safely or effectively met within a family setting.

The supporting information states that the home would accommodate children aged between 7 and 17 years and could provide both shorter-term and longer-term placements. However, the application does not demonstrate that the proposal has been developed in response to an identified sufficiency need within Kirklees. Whilst the proposed home is relatively small, accommodating up to two children, there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate how the provision aligns with Kirklees Children's Services' identified placement needs or commissioning priorities.

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)

There is no evidence that the proposed development meets an identified sufficiency requirement. There is also a lack of alignment with Kirklees placement needs, which prioritise smaller homes for older teenagers.

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 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