

Consultation Response from KC Children - Commissioning
2026/91858 23, Foster Avenue, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, HD4 5LN
Change of use of residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to childrens care home for up to two children (Use Class C2)
Date Responded: 10/08/26
Responding Officer: Childrens Commissioning
Responding Ref:

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 5 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.

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 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

