Application number: 2026/91877 - 14, Howard Avenue

Address: 14, Howard Avenue, Lindley, Huddersfield, HD3 3DJ

Description of development:
The proposed use is to convert the residential dwelling into a C2 care-home for foster children/teenagers.

· How many children/adults would be accommodated?
4 Children or teenagers

· What is the ratio of staff to children/adult that is required?
A staff member to two children so therefore we shall have 2 staff for 4 children.

· What is the likely level of need of the children/adults accommodated, i.e. is there a focus on complex needs?
No complex needs

· What is the likely shift pattern of staff, i.e. how many staff (management and care staff) would likely be at the premises at any one time and when would shift changes occur?
A C2 residential children or teenager care home typically operates with 2 on duty during the day and at least 2 staff members overnight, usually comprising one waking night worker and one sleep-in staff member. Shift changes generally occur around 08:00 and 20:00 or 22:00

Early Shift: 08:00 – 16:00 or 08:00 – 20:00
Late Shift: 16:00 – 22:00 or 12:00 – 00:00 (overlapping peak times)
Long Day / Sleep-in Shift: 08:00 – 08:00 the following morning (includes daytime hours plus a sleep-in overnight)
Night Shift: 22:00 – 08:00 (Waking night plus a secondary sleep-in cover)

· What support officers would be likely to visit the property?
frequent visits are expected from local authority social workers, healthcare practitioners if required for section visits for the accommodating the property, regulatory inspectors, and operational support staff. But visits shall be according to schedule and would not impact the neighbours or street parking.

· How would visits be scheduled and would staff/support-worker meetings take place at the property?
professional visits are scheduled jointly based on the young person and staff availability

· Would therapeutic care be offered on site?
No

· Would case reviews take place on or off site?
Case reviews (such as Looked After Child or statutory reviews) for children and teenagers in residential care can take place **either on-site or off-site**, depending on what works best for the young person, the local authority, and the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)

· Are friends and relatives of residents able to visit at any time?
Yes, depending on schedule and availability. However, its only a visitor at a time and scheduled through time slot system. This is due to only 3 car parking spaces which 2 shall possibly taken by staff although they shall be encouraged to come by public transport. And one shall be available for

visitor. There are three car parking spaces so therefore there is sufficient space for those visiting and working. Plus we do not plan to overcrowd or create havoc for neighbouring properties.

· Will the property be OFSTED registered?
Yes

· Are children ever left alone at the property?
No

· Under what circumstances are children allowed to leave the property?
Permission and given curfew plus whereabouts or where they plan to go is informed

· Would staff members be informed/aware if a child left the property?
yes

· Is there a curfew?
yes

· What would happen in the event of a breach of curfew?
In a registered C2 (residential) children's or teenager's care home in the UK, a breach of curfew is never treated with immediate physical punishment, fines, or lockouts, as these actions are strictly illegal under Ofsted Care Home Regulations.
Instead, care staff follow a tightly regulated legal and operational framework designed to balance "normal parenting" with safeguarding duties.
The exact sequence of events depends on whether the child's whereabouts are known, and what risk level is assigned to them.

· What security provisions are proposed, e.g. security and access controls on doors?
Proposed security provisions for a C2 Children or Teenager Care Home must balance robust safeguarding with maintaining a "homely", non-institutional environment. Provisions are carefully scrutinized by Ofsted and Local Planning Authorities to ensure they do not cross the line into unlawful deprivation of liberty.
The primary security and access control provisions typically proposed for doors and the broader premises include:
1. External Door Controls & Main Access

- Electronic Key Fobs and Keypads: External front and back doors are usually fitted with electronic proximity fobs or numeric keypads. These prevent unauthorized members of the public from walking into the home and protect vulnerable young people.
- Intercom and Visitor Entry Systems: A main entrance intercom with a camera is standard. This allows staff to verify identity before granting access to visitors, social workers, or clinicians.
- No "Lock-In" Egress: To comply with fire regulations and Ofsted guidelines, external doors must allow internal egress without a key. They are usually fitted with internal thumb-turn locks or magnetic locks that automatically release when the fire alarm is triggered.

2. Internal Door Access Controls

- Restricted Staff Areas: Digital keypads or fob access are used for the staff office, medication storage, and the laundry/chemical room. This keeps confidential records and hazardous materials securely out of reach.
- Domestic Bedroom Privacy: Bedroom doors may be fitted with standard domestic locks. Depending on a child's age, understanding, and risk assessment, they are often given a key to cultivate independent living skills and protect their belongings. Staff retain override keys for emergency safeguarding access only.

- Kitchen & Communal Flexibility: Kitchen doors are generally kept unlocked to maintain a family environment. Lockable cabinets inside the kitchen are used for knives and cleaning supplies rather than locking the room entirely.

3. Perimeter and Auxiliary Security Provisions

- Overnight Door Alarms: Rather than physically locking teenagers inside, homes frequently propose chime door alarms or motion sensors that activate only at night. This alerts sleep-in staff if a young person attempts to leave the property unsupervised.
- Window Restrictors: For safety and security, upper-floor bedroom windows are fitted with restrictors to prevent falling or unauthorized egress.
- Communal CCTV: External CCTV is common to monitor the property boundaries, driveways, and main entrance doors. Internal CCTV is heavily restricted by government surveillance guidelines; it is rarely permitted in communal living spaces and strictly prohibited in bedrooms or bathrooms.
- Controlled Boundary Gates: Electronic entrance gates are frequently included in planning applications to manage vehicle traffic, protect privacy, and limit access to the driveway.

· Would CCTV be installed?

Yes, but strict boundary rules apply to balance security with a child's right to dignity and privacy under the Children's Homes Regulations.

- Permitted (With Justification): External perimeters (driveways, gates, building entrances) to prevent unauthorized visitors. Main internal thoroughfares like communal hallways or main reception desks.
- Highly Restricted: Shared living rooms or dining spaces. These require an exceptionally high standard of justification to prove less intrusive methods would fail.
- Strictly Prohibited: Bedrooms, bathrooms, and toilets. Installing cameras here violates human rights and privacy laws unless explicitly directed by a court order for an individual child's immediate protection

· How would local residents know how to raise a concern in the event of an issue?

Direct Contact Information Provided by the Home

As part of their community relations and Ofsted Statement of Purpose, reputable operators proactively give neighbours direct contact routes:

- The Registered Manager: The home's primary contact name, telephone number, and dedicated email address are typically shared with immediate neighbours.
- Community Introduction Letters: Upon opening or during management changes, homes often circulate letters providing an out-of-hours or duty-manager number for immediate localized issues (e.g., parking, noise, or property damage).

The Local Authority (Council)

If residents do not have the home's direct contact details, the local council acts as the primary hub for community issues:

- Children's Social Care Team: Local residents can contact the council's children's services to report any general concerns about the operation of a facility in their area.
- Local Ward Councillors: Residents frequently voice neighbourhood issues to their elected ward councillors, who have direct escalation lines into the council's social care contract and planning compliance teams.
- Environmental Health: For ongoing structural disturbances like excessive noise or waste management failures, residents look up and report via the council's standard nuisance channels.

Ofsted (The Regulatory Body)

For serious, systemic, or unresolved issues, residents can find out how to report directly to the national regulator:

- Public Inspection Reports: If a resident searches for the home online, they will find its Ofsted reports page, which publicly displays the provider's regulatory history and contact options.
- Whistleblowing and Public Portals: Residents can use the official Gov.uk Ofsted portal or call their non-emergency line (0300 123 1231) to share concerns regarding the safety, staffing levels, or management of the home. Ofsted logs these as intelligence to trigger unannounced monitoring visits.

4. Emergency and Safety Services

If residents witness an immediate safety risk, they rely on standard emergency public infrastructure:

- The Police (101 or 999): For anti-social behaviour, missing child incidents, or immediate danger to life, residents call the police, who automatically cross-reference the address with local multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH).

To help tailor this, are you looking at this from the perspective of a resident needing to make a report, or a care provider designing a community policy?