Consultation Response from KC Children - Commissioning

2026/91877 14, Howard Avenue, Lindley, Huddersfield, HD3 3DJ

Change of use of dwelling (Class C3) to children's residential home (Class C2)

Date Responded:
Responding Officer:
Responding Ref:

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

I have reviewed the planning application and supporting information available via the Planning Portal. Kirklees Children's Services is committed to ensuring that children and young people are cared for in the most appropriate setting to meet their 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 application proposes a children's home accommodating up to three children. However, the information provided does not demonstrate that the proposal has been developed in response to an identified sufficiency need within Kirklees. Whilst the proposal seeks to provide children's residential care, insufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate how the provision aligns with Kirklees Children's Services' identified placement requirements and commissioning priorities.

Kirklees Children's Home Market

There is a significant overprovision of children's homes within Kirklees which exceeds local need. We have seen substantial growth in new children's homes opening across the district in recent years. This oversupply results in a large proportion of placements being made by other local authorities and does not support the Government's ambition for children to live closer to their home communities wherever possible.

There is no evidence within the application that the proposed development addresses an identified sufficiency gap within Kirklees. Nor is there evidence demonstrating how the proposed model would support the specific placement needs identified by Kirklees Children's Services.
The Government has proposed strengthening arrangements for new children's homes by requiring greater engagement with local authorities regarding need and sufficiency. This reflects the importance of ensuring that new provision is developed in response to evidenced local demand rather than market opportunity alone.

Therefore, based on the information provided within the planning application, Kirklees Children's Services does not support this application.

Kirklees Children's Services remains keen to work positively with providers to develop high-quality provision that aligns with local sufficiency needs and commissioning priorities. We encourage providers to engage with Children's Commissioning at the earliest opportunity to discuss proposals and better understand local placement requirements.

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