

Development Management

Subject: FW: Consultation request for planning application LCC/2024/0011 at 23 Hutton Drive, Burnley, BB12 0TR
Attachments: LCC CHILDREN'S HOME MARKET POSITION STATEMENT (April 2024).pdf

From: McNeil, Annette [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 12:02 PM
To: Development Management <devman@lancashire.gov.uk>
Cc: Development Management <devman@lancashire.gov.uk>; Barbour, Amanda [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Consultation request for planning application LCC/2024/0011 at 23 Hutton Drive, Burnley, BB12 0TR

Good morning

Thank you for asking for my views on the above planning application.

As set out in our Children's Home Market Position Statement attached, I can confirm that Lancashire County Council has the highest number of Ofsted registered children's homes in its area than any other local authority in England. 'On paper' there are more than enough children's homes in our area to meet local demand (up to four times as many as is actually required). However, despite having such a high number of children's homes, we can still really struggle to find suitable, local, good quality, good value homes for some of our children in care. 70% of children's homes in Lancashire do not have a Lancashire child living there, as children from other local authorities have been placed there (sometimes at a great distance from their homes). This has a significant impact on local resources such as health, schools and police etc. In addition, having such a large number of children's homes in our area does make it very challenging for new and existing providers to recruit good quality, suitably trained staff, especially children's home managers.

More and more children's homes continue to be opened by private providers (25% more in the last 12 months). Of the 62 new homes opened in our area by private providers in the last 12 months, only 30% of these are currently caring for Lancashire children, even though most are homes that could help to meet identified gaps in local provision. Throughout this time, we have continued to struggle to find local, Ofsted regulated homes for all of our children who require this.

I can confirm that there is a need for this home, as it will help to address an identified gap in local provision. I can also confirm that this home will be used exclusively for Lancashire children. I can also confirm that there is not another Ofsted registered children's home located within a mile of the proposed home.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards

Annette McNeil
Senior Commissioning Manager
Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health
Lancashire County Council

[REDACTED]

Our vision for Education and Children's Services in Lancashire:

'Children, young people and their families are safe, healthy and achieve their full potential.'

