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Planning Department
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24th June 2026

PLANNING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	2026/0361
Proposal	Conversion of 2no units into 1no unit and the change of use from C3 (dwelling house) to C2 (residential institution)
Address	Ship Hotel, Midland Road, Royston Barnsley S71 4AY

Thank you for giving South Yorkshire Police 'Designing out Crime Officers' the opportunity to consult this planning application.

The open-source sites, Police.uk and ONS websites together with South Yorkshire Police information systems have been used to obtain details of local crimes and incidents. These details have been used to ascertain the possible type and number of crimes, which may impact on the building and its residents' users or neighbours. Information from both open sources are fully audited Government controlled sites and provide the most reliable sources of information in respect of this area. The location itself does not suffer from elevated levels of criminality however the surrounding area does suffer from higher than national average anti-social behaviour and criminality in relation to 'acquisitive crime' in particular:- vehicle crime and burglary related offences.

South Yorkshire Police Designing out Crime Officer cannot support this planning application due to high baseline levels of anti-social behaviour and street crime in the area. Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, introducing vulnerable youth into an active crime hotspot creates immediate safety risks and an unsustainable strain on police resources.

Notice is given that this application has been referred to the local Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector, who reserves the right to submit a separate, independent consultation response regarding localised planning considerations relating to risk of crime, crime and disorder and police demand.

The concern of the Police is the impact that children's homes can have on the lives of neighbours, Police resources and the resident children themselves if the home is in an area where they could become involved with crime.

If there are elevated levels of street crime including drug misuse, the children again may become involved in the criminality or become victims of crime. Areas within Barnsley which have a known reputation for issues around gang culture can affect the lives of children in that area. As children in care can sometimes seek out friendships among local youths who in some cases may be involved in criminality. This can lead to the looked after child being exploited and becoming involved in committing crime. Some looked after children in residential homes are vulnerable, this may be due to medical conditions or an emotional issue, which may be exploited by other criminally minded youths who see the child as a means of conducting criminal behaviour on their behalf. This type of child criminal exploitation has led to children in care looking after weapons and transporting drugs on behalf of more seasoned older youths. This is



more prevalent but not exclusive to children who are not originally from the Barnsley area but have been moved from addresses and homes in other parts of the Country.

When staff at children's homes have prevented local youths from visiting and influencing the more vulnerable children in their care, these same youths have targeted the property to intimidate the staff and children into allowing them that access. This has taken the form of physical attacks on the property by smashing windows with bricks, and damage in the form of graffiti daubed on walls. The children themselves have been targeted by having bricks thrown at their bedroom windows. Being subject to this level of intimidation is often enough to force a young vulnerable child to become involved in criminality.

A further issue arises when the home itself relies too heavily on the Police to enforce standards of discipline around behaviour and curfew times. Police have been called to homes where a child had failed to return home by a stipulated time and action from the Police is required to complete a missing person's report. Staff at the home having done nothing to ascertain the whereabouts of the child or made any enquiries at all. Police have been contacted to deal with issues in the home that should be dealt with by staff.

The Design and access statement is lacking in sufficient information about crime prevention and building security measures. Having reviewed this application, it is kindly requested that the following recommendations be taken into consideration by the planners and conditioned, added as a directive or informative, if deemed necessary.

Should a decision be made to allow this application, the owner/operator of the Children's care home along with the manager must sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding relating to children missing from home, drawn up by South Yorkshire Police, Barnsley Council partners and care providers.

It is the responsibility of the applicant/developer or the developer's agent to ensure compliance with all applicable building and fire regulations in relation to this application.

South Yorkshire Police Designing out Crime Officer cannot support this planning application due to high levels of anti-social behaviour and street crime in the area. Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, introducing vulnerable youth into an active crime hotspot creates immediate safety risks and an unsustainable strain on police and service providers resources.

Risk Assessment and Exploitation

Barnsley data shows a clear link between high crime areas and youth criminalisation. Areas with active drug misuse and gang culture threaten the welfare of looked after children, who often seek local friendships and possess emotional or medical vulnerabilities. Criminally minded youths routinely exploit these children, using them to transport drugs or store weapons. This risk is highest for out of area placements moved away from their home support networks.

Community and Operational Impact

Historical evidence shows that when care staff attempt to safeguard residents by blocking local criminal youths, those external elements retaliate to force compliance. This takes the form of physical attacks on the property, including smashing windows with bricks, daubing walls with graffiti, and targeting children directly by throwing bricks at their bedroom windows. This severe intimidation routinely forces vulnerable children into submission and criminal compliance. Furthermore, locating a home in an unsuitable area compounds existing disorder, which degrades the quality of life for local neighbours.

An additional operational challenge stems from a documented issue where care staff rely too heavily on Police to manage basic behaviour and curfew compliance. Police are frequently called to file formal missing person reports the



moment a child misses a curfew, without staff making any prior basic enquiries or attempts to locate the child themselves. This inappropriate outsourcing of internal discipline absorbs critical front line policing resources.

Officer Recommendations

In addition to the operational requirements detailed above, the following physical security measures are necessary to reinforce the building against the specific external threats and intimidation tactics observed at other children's homes in the South Yorkshire area.

All ground floor and easily accessible first-floor doors and windows should comply with the enhanced security performance standards of PAS 24:2022 or LPS 1175 SR2 to resist forced entry and physical attacks.

To mitigate the specific risk of bricks being thrown at the property, all glazing units must consist of a minimum of one pane of glass that achieves compliance under the BS EN 356 P1A attack resistance standard. A suitable alternative to laminated glass is the application of a security film that meets the BS EN 356:2000 class P1A standard or higher, which must be installed to the edge of the glass, anchored securely under the window beading.

External lighting must be installed on all facades and controlled by dusk-to-dawn sensors to eliminate blind spots and deter trespassers. The external lighting scheme must comply with the British Standard for security lighting, BS 5489-1:2013.

A comprehensive CCTV system must be installed to protect the perimeter, deter attacks against the property, and provide vital evidence for prosecution should an incident occur. To ensure the system is fit for purpose, an operational requirements report must be completed prior to installation, following the official guidance available on the Government website. CCTV should be legally installed and registered with the [Information Commissioners Office](#)

To ensure comprehensive physical protection, the perimeter must be secured by a robust boundary fence, such as a 1.8-metre minimum height weld-mesh system, coupled with self-closing, lockable access gates to prevent unauthorised local youth from entering the grounds.

Internal access control must be fitted to all staff offices, medication storage, and sensitive file areas, utilising proximity fobs or keypad locks to ensure a secure sanctuary for staff if the building exterior is targeted.

Legislation/Guidance.

Section 17 of the 'Crime and Disorder Act 1998' places a duty on each local authority: 'to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area to include anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and behaviour which adversely affects the environment'.

Planning Policy now places safety and security at the heart of the planning process.

Specific areas that are relevant to this application under the **National Planning Policy Framework 2** includes.

Section 8 states "Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion..."

Section 8 also states "Planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements by anticipating and addressing possible malicious threats and natural hazards, especially in locations where large numbers of people are expected to congregate. Policies for relevant areas (such as town centre and regeneration frameworks), and the layout and design of developments, should be informed by the most up-to-date information available from the police and other agencies about the nature of potential threats and their implications. This includes appropriate and proportionate steps that can be taken to reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and ensure public safety and security."

Section 12 affirms the Section 8 content "Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience."

Additional guidance can be found in the companion guide to the NPPF, the **National Planning Practice Guidance** document (NPPG).

Paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the NPPG all allude to the requirement of designing out crime. Indeed, paragraph 10 reinforces the need to consider Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act as a necessary requirement within the Planning Officers everyday business.



Summary

The reason for this advice is to ensure the physical protection elements of the premise are to current minimum standards. This advice should be acted upon as the minimum requirement and should be enforced, irrespective of any additional correspondence (or not) received by other departments within South Yorkshire Police.

From a physical protection aspect, a requirement to install products accredited under a British (or similar) standard should be seen as a prerequisite to any approval.

Should you wish to discuss these recommendations or require further details on any of the points mentioned in this report please contact me on the details below.

Kind Regards.

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