

STATEMENT OF NEED AND JUSTIFICATION

Proposed Change of Use from C3 (Dwellinghouse) to C2 (Children's Home)

30 Manor Fields, Great Houghton, Barnsley

1. Introduction

This statement demonstrates the clear and evidenced need for additional children's residential care provision within Barnsley, South Yorkshire and the wider Yorkshire and Humber region.

The proposed development relates to a small-scale children's residential home accommodating up to 2 children/young people aged 8–18, supporting those with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (EBD).

The justification for the proposed development is informed by national and regional evidence and confirms ongoing demand and shortage of suitable provision.

2. National Evidence of Need

National evidence demonstrates increasing and sustained demand for children's social care services and residential placements, particularly for children with more complex needs.

3. Market and Sufficiency Pressures

Local authorities face persistent difficulties in securing suitable residential placements, particularly for children with complex emotional and behavioural needs.

4. Regional Sufficiency

There are continued shortfalls in residential provision across Yorkshire and the Humber, resulting in children being placed at significant distances.

5. South Yorkshire and Barnsley Context

Barnsley experiences difficulty sourcing local placements and increasing reliance on out-of-area provision.

6. Wider Regional Demand

Neighbouring authorities also experience shortages and rely on cross-boundary placements.

7. Structural Drivers

Higher levels of deprivation contribute to increased demand for children's social care.

8. Consequences of Insufficient Provision

Children are placed away from home, impacting education, family contact, and support.

9. Importance of Small-Scale Provision

A 2-bed home provides stability, improved matching, and better outcomes.

10. Relevance of Proposed Development

The proposal will increase local provision and reduce reliance on distant placements.

The home will be owned and managed by a former Senior Children's Social Worker within Barnsley with extensive experience, strong understanding of local demand, and commitment to high-quality therapeutic care.

11. Conclusion

There is a clear and sustained need for additional provision, and this development represents an appropriate response.

The evidence from the Department for Education, Ofsted, the National Audit Office, placement sufficiency analysis, regional research, and local safeguarding reports demonstrates a clear and sustained need for additional children's residential care provision.

The proposed 2-bed children's home at 30 Manor Fields, Great Houghton represents an appropriate, proportionate, and policy-compliant response to this need.

It will make a positive contribution to:

- improving placement sufficiency,
- supporting local and regional authorities, and
- delivering better outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

In addition the home will be owned and managed by a former Senior Children's Social Worker within the Barnsley area, who has extensive experience supporting children and families with complex needs.

This professional background provides:

- A strong understanding of local demand and placement gaps within Barnsley and surrounding areas
- Insight into what existing provisions may lack and how to improve outcomes
- Experience in safeguarding, care planning, and multi-agency working

The Registered Manager is passionate about achieving positive outcomes for children and has developed this proposal in response to the recognised shortage of appropriate residential placements within the area.

This ensures that the home will not only meet demand but will also deliver high-quality, therapeutic care with a strong focus on stability, consistency, and improved outcomes for children requiring residential support.
