

GCR planning application - description of the proposal

The property will be rented by myself from the owner on a long term lease, to be used as an OFSTED registered children's residential home. I am a social worker in Oxfordshire and have been working in Fostering within OCC. This has given me knowledge of the absolute desperate need for residential spaces within in county. I am renting this property to provide a 24/7 residential care setting for 4 young people age 11-17 (probably will be girls) to support this need, as girls age 11-17 are the most difficult to place in long term placements. Our setting will provide a truly therapeutic support, with a therapist working with the young people weekly, as well as staff to promote a positive ethos of wellbeing and holistic work from the staff downwards. The aim is to support young people to become agentic, independent, valuable members of society who need less input from adult social care once turning 18.

Our home will provide 24/7 support, with two support staff and one manager on shift always; shifts being 7am-7pm and 7pm-7am. Staff will be the same employees working on rotation, to offer consistency and reliability to the young people, who may have struggled to form secure attachment relationships before now. Parking at the property is sufficient for this, but there are also lots of bus routes on the road to allow travel by public transport. The public transport also allows the young people to travel to local schools with a support worker, without necessarily needing a car.

The area is a busy and bustling one, which will allow our staff to support the young people to function in these types of environments. I see a benefit to the property being near a university as well, to hopefully promote the ethos of continued further education and access to this establishment.

No changes inside or outside the property will be made, apart from redecoration inside. We will maintain the property, outside and inside, very well, to support the values of the young people, whilst provide a warm, clean, tidy, and welcoming space for them to develop. We have a full time employed maintenance person to ensure these values and standards are upheld inside and outside and fix any problems quickly.

The property has a good-sized garden to allow the young people to spend time in a safe and outdoors space without needing to access the public areas constantly. access to public areas will be monitored by the home manager, and often will be accompanied by a support worker. We will create the garden to be beautiful, tranquil, and functional for this purpose. The noise policy within the home has also been considered, and policy can be provided.

As the property is currently used as an HMO student let, all fire, emergency lighting, gas, EPC and electrical certificates are up to date, and we will carry put PAT testing before occupancy. This home model has been well thought out, with experienced staff employed, to ensure the smoothest running of the home.