



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Planning Committee

19 August 2020



Additional Information Report

This report sets out additional information in relation to planning applications for consideration at the Planning Committee on 19 August 2020 that was received after the Agenda was published.

S20/0246

Proposal: Change of Use from dwellinghouse (C3) to Children's Residential Care Home (C2)

Site Address: Heath Farm, Newgate Lane, Londonthorpe

Summary of Information Received:

The following correspondence has been received from the Executive Director of Children's Services at Lincolnshire County Council:

'I have been alerted to a South Kesteven Planning Application for a private children's home at Londonthorpe. I have seen the documentation regarding communication between the proposed provider of an Independent Residential Provision and your Planning Officer. I thought it would be helpful to write, as Executive Director of Children's Services to clarify Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) position.

LCC currently has 654 Looked After Children. We try wherever possible to place our young people in homes in Lincolnshire so they are near their extended families. Very few of our young people are placed with private care provision within and out of county.

We are in the process of planning to provide more of our own residential provision in the County for our young people.

75% are placed with Foster Carers

5% are placed in LCC Residential Provision

5% are placed in Independent Residential Provision/Out of County Placements

The remaining 20% are with their families on care orders or in independent living arrangements.

Of the 5% placed in Independent Residential Provision, a proportion of those are placed away from Lincolnshire for safety reasons or to meet their cultural needs so we would not be seeking to return these young people to provision in Lincolnshire.

Based on the above figures, it is clear that LCC rarely uses Independent Residential Provision in the County and that most of this provision (including any new homes) is highly likely to be used by other Local Authorities to place their Looked After Children in Lincolnshire, not for local need.

It might also be helpful, when considering planning applications, to know that we already have 534 Looked After Children from other Local Areas placed into provision in Lincolnshire.

It is also important to note that when Looked After Children are placed in Lincolnshire from other parts of the country, LCC does not provide any Social Care support services to these young people as these are delivered by the home Local Authority. However, Police, Health and Education services must be provided by authorities in the area the child is placed so District Councils may wish to consult with these authorities when considering applications.'

Officer Comment:

Policy SP6, Community Services and Facilities of the Local Plan states:

Community facilities may have a local or wider catchment area, and their accessibility should be considered proportionately relative to their purpose, scale and catchment area and;

f. Be physically accessible to all members of society;

g. Be designed so that they are adaptable and can be easily altered to respond to future demands if necessary; and

h. Where applicable be operated without detriment to local residents.

Whilst, as stated, this particular home may not be used by LCC to house children in need of care, the County Council does use independent residential provision outside Lincolnshire so the wider picture needs to be considered as a reciprocal arrangement.

In accordance with Policy SP6 the proposed home will have a wider catchment area, provides suitable accommodation and is not considered to be in an isolated location having regard to its proximity to Grantham.

The proposed use will have no adverse impact on local residents due to the size of the site and the relationship with adjacent dwellings.

The current use of the property is as a dwelling house that could be occupied by a family with 4/5 children, so the proposed use, caring for up to 4/5 children would not result in any additional impact on police, health or education services.

There is no change to the recommendation of approval as set out on the agenda.