



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Planning Department
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
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Early Intervention & Prevention Unit
First Floor, Block 6
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Weston Road
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ST18 0YY

Date: 28th March 2025

Application: SMD/2025/0143

Location: West View, Thorney Edge Road, Bagnall, ST9 9LD

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use of former residential dwelling house as a Children's Care Home for 2 Children (C2 Use) which has been operational since April 2012

The proposal has been reviewed with particular reference to Police CPI's Secured by Design guidance and in accordance with the recognised principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

The following comments should be considered in the light of the following:

- Under the heading Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities, Para 96(b) of the NPPF 2024 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 ...";
- Under the heading Achieving Well-Designed Places, Para 135(f) of the NPPF 2024 states "Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments - create places that are safe ... and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience";
- Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan - Design Consideration, Spatial Objective SO10 – "To deliver sustainable, inclusive, healthy and safe communities";
- The statutory obligation placed on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998;
- The 2006 CABI document entitled 'Design and Access Statements: How to Write, Read and Use Them', which states "Statements should demonstrate how development can create accessible and safe environments, including addressing crime and disorder and fear of crime".

It is noted that this property has operated as a children's care home since 2012 and possesses Ofsted registration, having received a 'good' rating on the previous 5 inspections. Presumably this application has been submitted to formalise that usage from a planning perspective, having for whatever reason, not previously done so.

The views of the Local Policing Team have been sought in connection with this existing children's care home and the response states they have no issues with the proposal and from the Deputy Commander's understanding, it has been operating without generating any police concerns. A review of the police STORM incident reporting system reveals no incidents have been reported within the last 12 months in connection with the property, which is encouraging. Consequently, there is currently nothing from a policing perspective which would be a cause for concern or provide grounds for any objection.

Amongst other requirements, care home operators should adhere to the 'Children Missing from Home and Care' Joint Protocol between Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Local Authorities & Staffordshire Police. Whether this is something that the operator is aware of is unknown.

On an administrative note, it is noted that there is a slight discrepancy in terms of the operator. The cover letter and application form state the applicant is from 'Step by Step Homes Ltd', but the Ofsted Certificate of Registration from October 2024 references the registered provider as a company called 'Footsteps A Path to Change 08 Ltd'. One would expect that this may warrant the Local Planning Authority seeking some satisfactory clarification on this particular point.

Crime Prevention advice is given freely without the intention of creating a contract, and all comments and recommendations are site specific. Staffordshire Police and the Home Office do not accept any legal responsibility for the advice given.

David Elkington
Designing Out Crime Officer