

LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEED STATEMENT

Prepared on behalf of: Praveen Videlp

Site address: 29 Cartmel Close, Unsworth, Bury, BL9 8JA

Application type: Full Planning Permission

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1.0 Introduction

This Local and National Need Statement has been prepared by Inhaus Planning in support of the application for Full Planning Permission for the proposed children's care home at 29 Cartmel Close, Unsworth, Bury, BL9 8JA. It sets out the evidence base demonstrating the acute and ongoing national shortage of residential care placements for looked-after children, and contextualises the proposed provision within that national and regional framework.

2.0 National Context and Policy Pressures

England faces an acute shortage of residential care placements for children who cannot remain safely at home and for whom foster care is not suitable. According to the Department for Education's most recent statistical release, there were 81,770 looked-after children in England as at 31 March 2025, and 9,480 of those children were placed in children's homes (including secure children's homes) — a figure that rose by 9% in the preceding year alone (DfE, Children Looked After in England including Adoptions, 2024–25, published November 2025).

Local authorities across England routinely cannot identify suitable local placements and are forced to commission out-of-area placements at considerable cost and at measurable detriment to children's outcomes. Out-of-area placements are recognised as a significant risk factor for educational disruption, social isolation, and placement breakdown.

The May 2023 Ministerial Statement acknowledged this placement crisis and directed local planning authorities to take a supportive approach to applications for small-scale children's homes. This national policy position remains material to the determination of this application.

3.0 Regional and Local Context

Greater Manchester faces significant children's placement sufficiency pressures. The ten Greater Manchester local authorities collectively accommodate thousands of looked-after children, and residential care supply has not kept pace with demand. The proposed home at 29 Cartmel Close, Unsworth will provide two additional residential care places in the Bury and Greater Manchester area, directly reducing the need for out-of-area placements.

The site's location in Unsworth, Bury places it within reach of a range of statutory services, specialist education provision, CAMHS, and therapeutic support relevant to young people with EBD and SEMH needs, making it well-suited to the proposed provision.

4.0 Benefits of Small-Scale Provision

An extensive evidence base from the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory, NICE, and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care demonstrates that small-scale residential homes consistently deliver better outcomes for young people with complex needs than larger group settings. The two-place model at 29 Cartmel Close, Unsworth, Bury, BL9 8JA represents the most therapeutically intensive form of group residential provision available, offering a level of relational stability and individual attention that is

qualitatively superior to larger homes.

A two-place home also presents the absolute minimum planning impact of any residential care model. It occupies a single family dwelling, generates vehicle movements comparable to or fewer than those of a small family, produces no noise or environmental impacts above those of ordinary residential occupation, and is entirely indistinguishable from its neighbours.

5.0 Alignment with National and Local Policy Objectives

The proposed development is directly consistent with paragraph 63 of the NPPF (December 2024), which requires planning policies and decisions to reflect the housing needs of looked-after children; the May 2023 Ministerial Statement; the Children and Social Work Act 2017; the Independent Review of Children's Social Care (MacAllister, 2022); and Stable Homes, Built on Love (DfE, 2023).

The Council, as planning authority and as a local authority with its own corporate parenting responsibilities to looked-after children, has an opportunity to take a positive decision that directly contributes to better outcomes for some of the most vulnerable children in the Greater Manchester region.

6.0 Conclusion

The need for additional children's residential care provision in England is overwhelming and nationally acknowledged. With 81,770 children in care as at 31 March 2025 and a 9% annual increase in children placed in children's homes, the urgency of the placement crisis cannot be overstated. The proposed two-place home at 29 Cartmel Close, Unsworth will make a direct, proportionate, and urgently needed contribution to addressing that need. Bury Metropolitan Borough Council is respectfully invited to give significant material weight to this need in determining the application.