



Digital Connectivity Statement

Proposal: Conversion of a Detached Residential Dwelling into a Children's Care Home

Location: 34 Ringley Road, Whitefield, Bury, M45 7LE

Date: 22/07/25

1. Introduction

This statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the conversion of an existing detached residential dwelling into a children's care home, in line with Policy JP-C2 of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan for Greater Manchester – Digital Connectivity. The policy requires that all developments support the provision of affordable, high-quality digital infrastructure, including full fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) connectivity and operational internet access, unless it can be demonstrated that this is technically infeasible or unviable.

2. Existing and Proposed Digital Infrastructure

The existing property currently benefits from access to superfast broadband via local network providers. As part of the conversion to a care home, digital connectivity will be retained and upgraded as necessary to meet the operational needs of the facility, including:

- Administrative requirements for staff.
- Secure internet access for children and staff (with appropriate safeguarding controls).
- Remote communication with health and social care professionals.
- Potential integration with digital care management systems or telehealth technologies.

3. Provision of Full Fibre Connectivity

As part of the conversion, the applicant will:

- Engage with local internet service providers (ISPs) to determine availability of full fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) connections at the property.
- Facilitate the installation of FTTP infrastructure where available and viable, ensuring high-speed, future-proof connectivity.
- Where FTTP is not yet available, existing digital infrastructure will be upgraded to the highest feasible standard, such as fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC) with planned transition to FTTP as soon as the network permits.

Initial contact with network providers (e.g., Openreach, Talk Talk) suggests that full fibre coverage is available or planned in the local area, making FTTP delivery technically achievable within the operational timeframe of the conversion.

4. Accessibility & Network Security

The care home will ensure that:

- Digital connectivity is accessible to all residents and staff.
- Safeguarding policies will govern internet access for children to promote safe, responsible use. This includes use of firewalls, encrypted connections and regular updates to security software
- Future technology upgrades will be considered to support digital inclusion and operational resilience.

5. Conclusion

The proposed conversion of a detached dwelling into a children's care home will provide high-quality, reliable digital infrastructure in line with Policy JP-C2. Efforts will be made to secure full fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) connectivity, with existing infrastructure retained and upgraded where appropriate. Digital connectivity will play a vital role in ensuring the care home's operational efficiency, communication capacity, and resident support systems.