

P/20/0102 - 16 The Park, Treharris

This statement has been prepared in response to a number of matters raised by the LPA in their email of 18 June 2020 which relates to feedback received from local residents as part of the planning application consultation process. This response should be read in association with the Mission Statement provided with the planning application submission.

Matters raised in relation to nature and type of use that is being proposed and its impact on the local community in terms of noise and disturbance, anti-social behaviour and crime

Rise Care Ltd are a provider of residential children's home placements to Welsh local authorities. The Directors of Rise Care have over 20 years of experience in supporting Young People in residential settings. Rise Care is committed to providing the highest standards of care and support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Rise Care strive for excellence in every aspect of their work by providing highly trained and skilled staff to deliver the services they provide. Their aim is to create a nurturing environment to meet the needs of Young People who find themselves outside mainstream care and are cared for by their Local Authority.

Rise Care Ltd and their homes are registered and inspected with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). They work with Welsh local authorities and the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru to provide support and care to Young People who do not have the privilege of living in a family setting. Their Young People may have suffered severe abuse or neglect prior to becoming looked after by their local authorities. Rise Care believe it is never too late to improve Young People's lives with the right level of commitment, dedication and support.

Whilst the above legitimate concerns have been raised, due to the experience and practices Rise Care have already established it is not considered that there will be a material increase in any social disturbance within the area to that of a residential dwelling. Police statistics for the direct areas of Rise Care's existing homes show no evidence of any increase in crime or other anti-social behaviours or social disturbances. These are also legal, regulatory and political issues, that are not controlled under the scope of the planning system. The planning system and decisions on planning applications are primarily concerned with land use issues such as the impact on amenity and the environment.

Potential that the change of use would lead to increased traffic in a quiet street and an additional demand for on-street parking.

There will be no material increase in traffic to that of a residential dwelling. It is also understood that no objections have been raised by the Highway Department.

Clarification of the statement that Rise Care aims to provide a nurturing environment to meet the needs of young people who come from 'disadvantaged backgrounds' and find themselves 'outside mainstream care'.

Young People residing in the home will be referred to Rise Care through Local Authority placement teams, which are part of Social Services. There may be a number of reasons why Young People cannot remain within the family home, but this will generally mean that Young People have been subject to a form of abuse or neglect and a Judge has deemed the parents unable or unwilling to provide safe accommodation for their children.

The 'disadvantaged children' term specifically relates to the upbringing of Care Experienced Children.

The term 'outside mainstream care' specifically relates to the fact children are not living within their family setting and are cared for by their Local Authority.

Clarification of the term 'children will be on care orders'

When Young People are unable to remain within the care of their family they are placed under a care order and become the responsibility of their Local Authority. This can be 'full parental responsibility', 'shared parental responsibility' or 'Section 76 voluntary accommodation'. For example Rise Care share a very good working relationship with Merthyr Tydfil Social Services, supporting a Young Person from Merthyr Tydfil within one of their homes.

Would the children have any particular care requirements to address their needs (i.e. behavioural or learning difficulties, mental health, rehabilitation etc)?

Rise Care do not support any Young People with high risk or complex physical or mental health needs. These Young People would need a specific specialist provision with additional support, therapeutic interventions and on-site education which Rise Care does not cater for. The Young People Rise Care support may have lower diagnoses such as; Emotional & Behaviour Difficulties, Anxiety or specific educational needs and their Qualified staff team would then receive additional support from services such as Family Therapists, 1to1 school tutoring etc as necessary.

Each Young Person is treated as an individual and Rise Care's involvement is to help them grow from a position of suffering to achieving their outcomes. Young People each have a Personal Plan which is created with, not for, them. Rise Care work on their goals and set objectives together. Rise Care have Young People who have successfully adapted from non-attendance at school, into further education, apprenticeship schemes, work place learning and extra-curricular activities such as St Johns Ambulance & the Police Cadets.

How long would the children reside at the property?

Rise Care work with Young People on long term care orders. Theoretically, a Young Person could arrive into their care on their 11th Birthday and stay with until their 18th Birthday.

Would the children/young people attend local school/colleges?

Yes. Rise Care's expectation is that all Young People at compulsory education age would attend a suitable school/college. Some Young People may continue education at their previous provision or may be educated outside of mainstream schools, but where possible Young People would integrate at suitable local secondary schools and colleges.

Clarification of the number of staff that would be employed at the premises, shift patterns and the maximum number of staff who would be at the property on a daily basis?

There would be a full staff team of 10 members – but it is important to note that not all of the staff will be at the home at any one time. The breakdown of this would be as follows:

- 1 Registered Manager
- 1 Deputy Manager
- 3 Senior Residential Care Workers (SRCW)
- 5 Residential Care Workers (RCW)

The daily split of staffing is 2 RCW's working under either the Deputy Manager or a SRCW. A total of 3 staff per day.

All staff working at the home complete an induction, are registered with Social Care Wales and either hold, or will be working towards, a QCF Level 3 in Health & Social Care – Children & Young People. Staff receive regular Supervision and complete other core training such as Fire Safety, First Aid and Safeguarding.

Staff work on a 2 day on, 4 day off pattern. Within this they complete two 15 hour shifts (08:00-23:00), sleeping at the home from 23:00-08:00. Staff coming onto shift complete a 30 minute handover.

With a full home of 4 Young People, there would be ordinarily only be 3 members of staff working during the day, with two of these conducting sleep-in duties. The third member of staff goes home in the evening once the home is settled for the night and paperwork is completed.

Clarification of the staff responsibilities

Rise Care employees are responsible for the day to day running of the home; cleaning, preparing meals, assisting Young People with getting ready for, and travelling to, education, family contact, professional appointments, creating reports for Social Workers, accompanying Young People out for a broad range of activities. At the end of the day they then settle the home for the night. Staff will then sleep on site on a rotational basis. The Registered Manager oversees the work of the team and creates rotas, liaises with Social Workers etc. The Manager also operates an 'On Call' system for the home to ensure there is always additional support if required.

How often will visitors (i.e. social workers, parents) attend the home?

Visits to the home are very infrequent, due to the nature of safeguarding residents in a care setting. The majority of family and professional contact takes place away from the home. Whilst Rise Care encourage family contact as much as possible, Young People are more likely to have supervised contact at a mutual setting.

In general, Social Workers will meet with the Young People approximately once every six weeks. This may be at the home, at the Local Authority Offices or at a mutual venue.

Please could you explain how the property would run on a day to day basis?

In addition to the clarification provided above, the home is run to provide as close to a family environment as possible. Staff wake the Young People and prepare breakfast in the morning, take Young People to education and then clean and tidy the home during the day, completing reports if necessary, before collecting Young People again in the afternoon. Evening meals are prepared and served to the Dining Room for Young People and staff to eat together. Young People join staff for activities in the evening and at weekends Rise Care engage the Young People in enriched activities together and have facilitated anything from a day at the beach, a trek up Pen y Fan and holidays both in Wales and abroad.

Clarification of the children's homes currently operated in Blaenau Gwent and RCT

Rise Care's homes in Blaenau Gwent and RCT are both registered for the exact use The Park would be - up to four 11-17 year olds operating within a C2 use Class.

The Inspection Report for the home in Blaenau Gwent is include at Attachment 1. As the Penygraig home is under a year old they do not yet have a CIW inspection report.

Though the existing Rise Care homes the Directors have identified the Merthyr area as being at the centre of a geographical demand for additional occupancy, to serve Merthyr Tydfil and the surrounding Local Authorities. Rise Care believe that housing Young People in a safe community environment is imperative to their development and feel the good nature of Treharris is the right environment for our Young People to be supported to flourish.