

Sadlers Cottage, Brookpit Lane Climping, BN17 5QU is a semi detached dwelling located near the Town of Littlehampton. We propose to use the dwelling as a children's home. No alterations will be made to the building.

This application is for a certificate of Lawfulness of Purpose to use as a children's home. It is submitted that the existing use as a single dwelling falling within the class C3 of the Use Class Order will be maintained.

My Choice Children's homes Ltd is an organisation committed to the needs and welfare of children in their care. The company was established in 2000 and operates other children's homes in the county and is experienced in the issues of managing children's homes and is fully conversant with the regulations covering this issue.

The organisation is made up of experienced and qualified social workers. The ethos behind using family homes as children's homes is to avoid the stigma associated children's institutions as far as possible. The homes already managed by My Choice provide a real life residential experience for the individual young person allowing them to interact with the local community via places of worship, schools, collages, youth clubs, work experience and other social establishments.

Sadlers Cottage is a 6 bedroom house which will accommodate 4 children under the age of 18 years old. The children are full time residents at the home,, whilst care workers will provide care on a rotational basis. The house benefits from off street parking and a large private forecourt.

Part of the necessary registration and inspection of children's homes requires that any necessary planning consent to the running of the home are obtained. In order to comply with this particular aspect of the registration requirements, confirmation is requested that the use of the building as a private children's home falls within C3 domestic residential use, and that there has been no material change of use to the dwelling as a result of the proposed use.

The use Classes Order is a statutory Instrument allied to the Town and County Planning Acts. Class 3 dwelling house is defined as follows;

"Use as a dwelling house (whether or not as a sole residence)-

(a) by a single person or by people living together as a family, or

(b) by not more than 6 residents living together as a single household (including a household where care is provided for residents)."

Please note that upto 6 unrelated people can be living together under one roof within the class. "The key element the use of a dwelling house for non-family purpose is the concept of a single household" (Circular 03/05 paragraph 27).

Additionally if the council takes the view that the proposal does not fall within C3(b) use class, this proposal also makes the case that the proposed use represents 'no material change of use from that of a single dwelling'. If one compares the existing use with the proposed use, that of a children's home caring for young people, as described in the

Certificate of Lawful use application, the use is so similar to that of a dwelling in a single family occupation that no change of use will occur.

No external alterations are proposed to the house. The application site is not altered in any way. There are no signs on the external surfaces of the house advertising its use. The dwelling will purposefully maintain a domestic appearance with no outward signs of institutional use.

The internal spaces would be used in exactly the same way as a single dwelling. Each of the occupants would have the use of their own bedroom and all communal spaces are to be shared, including kitchen, bathroom, living room and garden.

Regarding the day to day activities at the application site, cooking, cleaning and washing would be carried out by carers with the young people being encouraged to assist in these tasks and taught to be independent in the same way a parent would an off-spring. The young people occupying the house will go to mainstream education and would have a social life not dissimilar to most children living with parents.

The pattern of traffic generated by the application would be similar to that generated by a single-family dwelling, the site benefits from substantial off road parking. This reflects the type of activity normally associated with a single dwelling.