

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 08/01/2026 12:12 PM from [REDACTED]

Application Summary

Address:	41 Harman Avenue Gravesend Kent DA11 7RJ
Proposal:	Application for a Proposed Lawful Development Certificate; Change of use from a residential dwellinghouse to a children's home.
Case Officer:	Mrs Lucy Hankin

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Address:	[REDACTED]

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application

Reasons for comment:

Comments: I've worked all my life with children - I led on behaviour for Kent County Council advising headteachers and their staff on all matters related to children - and from a professional as well as personal perspective, the establishment of a children's home in Harman Avenue seems an entirely misguided one. There are no facilities in easy reach to meet the needs of children. Woodlands Park is the nearest playing area, and access to that almost certainly requires transport.

Harman Avenue and the roads connected to it is a quiet suburban area occupied mainly by people without children. A children's home locally would both jar with the tone of the area and afford none of the children residents the opportunities they would undoubtedly need - for boisterous play, local friendships, independent exploration. Local residents would very likely find noise and potentially anti-social behaviour - the presenting behaviour of Looked After Children is characteristically challenging if it issues from the psycho-emotional and abuse experiences many will have had.

All but one of the residents from [REDACTED] and some significant health issues. Excess noise will cause them unwarranted stress.

Apart from a domestic property in Harman Avenue being an inappropriate setting for children, it is far from ideal for the adult carers. The facilities just aren't local enough, especially for adults without cars. It's a three mile walk to Gravesend town centre since there are bus services serving the Singlewell area.

I'd also be concerned for the safety of children. Harman Avenue is used as a cut through by endless drivers in the Singlewell and Hevercourt area and for A2 traffic when there are problems on the A2. It can get extremely busy. There are no opportunities for children to play outside and should they run into the road there would be a high chance of injury. As an expert in children's behaviour, I'm fully aware that the self-control of Looked After Children is often very poor, and many seek to escape whenever limits are placed on them. This is bad enough in safe school settings, but in proximity to a busy road, it could have perilous consequences.

I really don't think this is alarmist; I have witnessed it several times when I've worked at children's homes and their educational equivalents - Pupil Referral Centres. Poor self-regulation and/or the mutual dysregulation of children and adults is also likely to result in "screaming matches" in or outside a domestic property: not a happy prospect for locals accustomed to nothing of the sort.

I'm all in favour of children's homes if they are staffed by professionally trained adults and situated in areas where the needs of all residents are catered for. I doubt very much that this is the case with the proposed change of use at 41 Harman Avenue, and so I have no option but to object to it.

Kind regards