

# The Chestnuts – Committee Briefing

## Dear Member,

This application is on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting on 4th April 2024 (reference number 23/00633/FUL). The application has been recommended for approval by your Officers.

We consider that the scheme will deliver a much-needed, small-scale, care home in an appropriate location for two children.

## The Applicant

On average, 6 in 10 children have adverse or traumatic childhood experiences. Esland are committed to supporting and caring for children who have had the most difficult start, turning the course on their lives and supporting them to achieve their goals.

Esland provide homes across the country for children who have had a difficult upbringing. These small homes provide a nurturing and supportive environment that change children's lives for the better. The carers who work with the children provide the therapeutic, consistent and loving care that they deserve. Through their care, the children are also provided with the opportunities and much needed skills that will help them into adulthood.



## Proposed Development

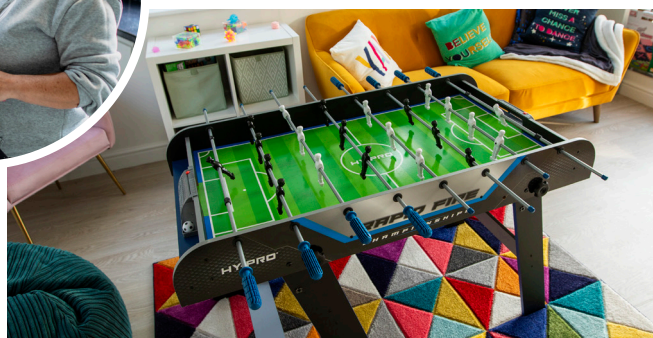
- ✓ This proposal will deliver a care home to accommodate a maximum of two children. It will fulfil an acute and growing need for homes to support children who need such provision.
- ✓ There are no external or internal changes proposed to the building.
- ✓ Sufficient off-road parking will be provided within the grounds of the property.
- ✓ A flexible use has been requested simply to make it easier for the site owners to revert the property back to a C3 use in the future without requiring a further application.

## Operational Considerations

- The teams at Esland put the well-being of the children first whilst also being mindful of the communities within which they are located and work hard to ensure that they foster good relations within the neighbourhoods in which they are situated
- The home in Redmile will be staffed to ensure the children are completely cared for and all safeguarding needs of the children are met. All Esland Children's homes are regulated by Ofsted and Esland is required to meet the standards set out by the Ofsted regulatory framework.
- Carers work in the home all day and night to support the children. Each child will have a minimum of one carer dedicated to them. Depending on the needs of a child, a child may have the support of two carers.
- A site manager is also present during working hours to ensure appropriate management is in place and as a point of contact with the local community. A duty manager is on call 24/7 at all times. ▶

- The children are provided with a holistic care package to assist them in their recovery. This typically includes inputs from therapists, clinicians and specialist educators.
- The carers create strong, long-term bonds with the children providing the highest chances for recovery.

Typically, and where appropriate, Esland Care homes will seek to positively integrate with the communities within which they are located. The Manager of the home will make an effort to get to know local neighbours and be available to answer questions. We also support community activities and aim to be a good neighbour to all the communities within which we work.



- Esland operate a thorough matching process to ensure children are placed appropriately in order to achieve the best outcomes. This process ensures that:
  - The needs of the individual child correlate with the type of property that they are placed in.
  - When a property can accommodate more than one child, the children are matched appropriately with each other.
- It is in all parties' interest to place the right child in the right location.

- In the unlikely event that inappropriate behaviour occurs, there is a clear point of contact in place to ensure any issues are quickly addressed. The Esland team are accountable.
- Letters of support have been provided from landlords and neighbours to existing Esland care homes which we hope will go some way to demonstrate how well Esland care homes operate and integrate with their communities.

## Amenity

- A C2 use of this scale will operate in a similar way to a family home and will not have an adverse impact on amenity.
- The levels of activity, traffic and noise associated with a small children's care home will be similar to that of a normal family home.
- Visits from specialists are occasional, during working hours and, with only two children at the home, will not be excessive.
- There is ample car parking on-site to accommodate all parking needs. No on-road parking will be needed.
- The level of activity (traffic, noise) associated with other small care homes within the village should also be similar to normal family homes, albeit there are no planning permissions in place to enable an assessment of their operations.

## Appropriateness of Location

- Due to the level of trauma experienced by the children, a quiet, edge-of-village property with a large garden provides an ideal space for recuperation.

## Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children

We hope you agree that this proposal will deliver much needed care home places that will really make a difference to the lives of two children who desperately need a new start.

**We hope that you are able to support the proposal and resolve to grant planning permission on 4th April. If, however, you consider otherwise, we welcome the opportunity for further discussion through a deferral.**