

mwj

SOLUTIONS

quality care
Your Ref: 2003/3794. children

Mr. M. Wilmont,
Development Control Manager,
Planning Services,
Herefordshire Council,
Blueschool House,
Blueschool Street,
Hereford. HR1 2ZB.

Wednesday, 28 January 2004

Ref: Fairview, Foy

Dear Mr. Wilmont,

I am writing in support of our planning application for the use of 'Fairview', Foy as a children's home.

I understand there have been a number of objections to this application, and believe that many of the objections are based on myth rather than fact.

To clarify some of the salient points I have the following comments to make:-

1. Maximum number of children.

'Fairview' is a four bedroomed house. The Care Standards Act ensures that children have privacy in their own bedrooms, sufficient bathroom facilities to have a choice of either a shower or bath, and at least one member of staff sleeping in at night. Therefore, the number of bedrooms in 'Fairview' limits the maximum number of children accommodated to three.

2. Education of children.

Where possible children are enrolled at the local schools. However, due to previously missed years of education we will frequently use our own fully registered school facilities at Ledbury, Monmouth or Dinmore. Our schools have an attendance record exceeding 90% and are inspected by HMI, Ofsted or Estyn. Sometimes the school will make arrangements for home tuition, when this is deemed in the child's interest.

3. Operation of the home.

The home is run as closely as possible to a normal home. The routines are identical, with the same highs and lows as any other home. Domestic routines are the same and children are expected to assist in these duties as well as join in local activities, clubs etc..

SOLUTIONS IS A TRADING NAME OF SOLUTIONS (ROSS) LTD · REGISTERED IN CARDIFF NO. 1925313 · REGISTERED OFFICE AS BELOW

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT CONTROL	
30 JAN 2004	
To: <u>MWJ</u>	<u>EX</u>
Ack'd:	File:



THE BUSINESS CENTRE
LLANGARRON
HEREFORDSHIRE HR9 6PG
TEL: 01989-770766
01989-770701
FAX: 01989-770011



4. 'Contract' between the Child and Solutions.

Upon arrival, very clear guidelines are agreed with the children, with the expectations for both sides set out in a 'contract'. This will include the rewards for good behaviour, sanctions for crossing boundaries and ultimately termination of the contract. We are very reluctant to 'close a bed' and inform a placing local authority that we can no longer look after this child. This can send the wrong message to the young person that they do not have any security, however in extreme cases we have and will take these steps.

5. Neighbour Contact.

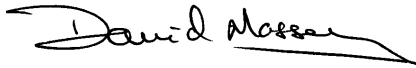
Prior to placing we will have gathered as much information about the young person from the placing authority and undertaken a complete and thorough assessment as to the impact they may have on other children living in the home and the local community.

The home has been open since August 2003 and the staff at the home have made every effort to blend into the neighbourhood. An invitation was extended to all neighbours to visit 'Fairview' on the afternoon of Sunday 30th November 2003, to meet the staff and the child residing at that time. This appeared to be a very successful event with the majority of close neighbours taking the opportunity to visit. This day will be repeated in the future to assist in the process of reassurance to the local community.

I hope the above assists in giving the picture of the current situation and intended future for 'Fairview'.

Should you wish for any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



David Massey
Managing Director

