

2026 Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation

Consultation statement – Children’s Residential Care and Children’s Supported Accommodation SPD

The Council consulted statutory and other consultees on the draft Children’s Residential Care and Children’s Supported Accommodation SPD in line with the approved 2018 Statement of Community Involvement (<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/sci>). The consultation period ran from 1st October 2025 to 14th November 2025.

Nine responses were received, from:

- Crosby Housing
- Historic England
- Environment Agency
- David Barton
- National Highways
- Natural England
- Homes England
- Sefton Children’s Services
- Merseyside Police

The table below summaries the main issues raised by consultees ('summary of comment'), and how these issues have been addressed in the SPD ('initial response').

Who made the comment?	Comment	Council Response
Crosby Housing	Inclusion of a cost for pre-application service could be prohibitive. Instead there should be a requirement to engage with children’s services to develop a plan that meets needs, planning requirements and secure funding. Needs to be a greater emphasis on partnership to improve quality of accommodation.	Following consultation with Sefton Children’s Services, a paragraph is to be included requiring developers to submit a draft ‘Statement of Purpose’ including a statement of risk. This should link to the Council’s Sufficient Strategy and show how the proposal helps the Council prior to the submission of a full application. This requirement for greater engagement with children’s services will help deliver higher quality accommodation, however, will not replace the cost for a pre-application fee.
Historic England	No comment	N/A

Environment Agency	No comment	N/A
David Barton	Provide new incentive for utilisation of existing old builds prior to the 1950s for retrofitting to accommodate individual and collective groups' needs	This comment is not relevant to the scope of this SPD.
David Barton	Provide ample new free car parking for everyone to persuade other motorists to use roads away from these residential areas thereby benefitting everyone, primarily those integrated in the care sector.	This comment is not relevant to the scope of this SPD.
David Barton	Provide financial incentive for present successful landlords to educate and share grassroots knowledge with new business owners seeking to open homes, especially those that are, yet to or have been utilising buildings from the Victorian and Edwardian building eras.	This comment is not relevant to the scope of this SPD.
National Highways	No comment	N/A
Natural England	No comment	N/A
Homes England	No comment	N/A
Sefton Children's Services	Asks that the SPD sets out that applicants submit a Statement of Purpose which links the proposal to Sefton's Sufficiency Strategy. This should also include an assessment of risk.	Add the following text: <p><u>To assist the Council to decide if the type of homes being proposed are needed in Sefton or more locally, applicants should, at the earliest possible point, submit a draft Statement of Purpose. This should preferably be shared with the Council prior to the submission of a full application. The Statement of Purpose should link to the Council's Sufficiency Strategy and show how the proposal helps the Council towards its vision for children in care and care-experienced young people. The draft Statement of Purpose should also include a risk assessment which demonstrates any risk to the children, staff and local community have been identified and mitigated. The Sufficiency Strategy will be an important consideration for the Council to determine if there is need for the specific type of accommodation being proposed.</u></p>

Merseyside Police	(In reference to paragraph 5.8) How will planning officers determine the suitability of the accommodation?	The SPD provides detailed guidance on choosing appropriate properties and appropriate locations.
Merseyside Police	(In reference to paragraph 5.8) Do the listed measures reflect the level of detail which Officers will expect to see provided at the planning application stage?	The listed measures reflect the likely adaptations that may be required to protect the amenity of neighbours.
Merseyside Police	(In reference to paragraph 5.8) One of the listed measures is “Provision of appropriate boundary treatments to garden areas”. What is appropriate will depend on the context, however can the Council provide examples of the kind of boundary treatments that Officers are likely to consider appropriate?	Any boundary treatments will be considered on a site by site basis and be in accordance with the ‘Boundary Treatments’ SPD.
Merseyside Police	(In reference to paragraph 5.8) Would Sefton Council support conditioning an application in regard to physical security should Merseyside Police have a proportionate rationale to justify why this is necessary?	The Council would welcome representations from the police on individual applications and will consider all requests for planning conditions if they are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • necessary; • relevant to planning; • relevant to the development to be permitted; • enforceable; • precise; and • reasonable in all other respects.
Merseyside Police	Welcome the inclusion of the text in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3	Noted
Merseyside Police	(In reference to Section 7) Please could the inclusion of contingency plans for managing anti-social behaviour be considered as a matter also to be covered by management plans? This could be done through physical design features or through engagement with Merseyside Police to discuss local crime risks and trends. This would draw applicant’s attention to the need to proactively consider the potential for ASB, how it could impact on neighbour amenity, and how it could be managed.	The following will be included in the list of points that should be included in a management plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contingency plans for managing anti-social behaviour

Merseyside Police	<p>The management plans secured by condition should detail the named responsible care provider, alongside any agency details.</p>	<p>Noted. The Council agrees that this information would be useful. Add the following that could be included in a management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• name and contact details of responsible care provider, alongside any agency details.
-------------------	---	--