

Children's Residential and Supported Living Accommodation

Supplementary Planning Document

Scoping Report

January 2025

Children's Residential Care and Supported Living Accommodation SPD

Sefton Council is preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to set out how it will manage proposals for Children's Care Homes and Supported Living Accommodation for Children. This will be consistent with the planning policies in the Sefton Local Plan (www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan).

We are inviting you to comment at this early stage to help us decide what level of guidance and background information should be contained in the SPD.

Comments should be made by Monday 3rd March 2025

We are seeking views from developers, organisations, businesses, individuals and others who are involved or have an interest in the Children's Care and Residential Living Accommodation. This scoping report identifies the key issues relevant to planning when assessing proposals for Children's Care and Residential Living Accommodation. Please let us know if you agree with these and whether there are additional issues you would wish the SPD to cover.

What is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)?

SPDs give more detailed guidance to policies in the Adopted Local Plan. They are subject to public consultation under The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Once adopted SPDs are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

Policy Background

Government planning policy and how it is to be applied is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2). The NPPF requires each council to have robust and comprehensive policies that support the delivery of high-quality sustainable and inclusive development.

Sefton Local Plan was adopted in April 2017. The Local Plan includes a range of policies, which conform to national planning policy, to shape the future of Sefton. It sets out how new development will be managed in the period from 2012 to 2030, encouraging sustainable development and economic growth and giving current and future generations more opportunities to live and work in Sefton's outstanding environment.

The proposed Children's Residential Care and Supported Living Accommodation SPD will support the following Local Plan policies:

Policy IN1 INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS sets out that '*Social, community, environmental and physical infrastructure will be protected, enhanced and provided where there is an identified need to support sustainable communities*'.

Policy SD2 PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT sets out the Local Plan has been developed in accordance with, and will apply the following principles:

- To help meet the housing needs of Sefton’s changing population for market and affordable housing; homes for families, the elderly, people with other special housing needs and others
- To meet the diverse needs for homes, jobs, services and facilities, as close to where they arise as possible

Policy HC2 HOUSING TYPE, MIX AND CHOICE sets out that proposals for residential care accommodation that would result in or exacerbate an existing oversupply will be refused.

Suggested Role and Scope of the Children’s Residential Care and Supported Living Accommodation SPD

The SPD will set out guidance to achieve the following:

- Set out when a material change of use would occur and planning permission is necessary.
- Ensure that the needs of looked after children are paramount in the Council’s decision-making process.
- Ensure that new children’s homes are established in appropriate premises and in suitable locations.
- Establish that the needs of local children are a priority to ensure that the Council can meet the needs of the existing community as far as possible within the local area.
- Prevent an undue concentration of specialist uses in any particular area of the borough in order to safeguard the local character and amenity.
- Safeguard the children in care and the interests of local communities by requiring premises to be operated in accordance with a robust Management Plan.

Consultation Questions

Do you believe that the scope of the SPD is correct? Do you think it should look at any other issues?

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

National planning policy indicates that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are not required for an SPD unless it is considered that there are likely to be significant environmental effects or exceptional circumstances.

This SPD builds on policies in the adopted Local Plan, all of which have been subject to SA and SEA and detailed scrutiny at the Examination. Furthermore, the criteria in Schedule 1 of the

Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been taken into consideration and it is the view of Sefton Council that these have not been triggered to the extent that it is necessary to for an SEA of this SPD.

Consultation Question

Do you believe Strategic Environmental Assessment is required? If so, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

How to comment

Comments on whether you agree with the scope of this SPD and/or whether there are other things that should be included should be sent to:

local.plan@sefton.gov.uk

Planning Department
Magdalen House
Trinity Road
Bootle L20 3NJ

What happens next?

An indicative SPD timetable is provided below:

Prepare Draft SPD, taking into account comments made to the scope	To June 2025
Approval from Cabinet Member to publish draft SPD for eight weeks public consultation.	July 2025
Publish draft SPD for eight weeks consultation.	September 2025
Prepare draft SPD for adoption, taking into account comments made	October 2025
Approval from Cabinet to adopt the SPD	November 2025

Data Protection

- All comments, including personal details, received will be logged securely.
- Comments from private individuals will be published online. Names will be published online unless a specific request to remain anonymous is made. However, we may not be able to give the same weight to anonymised comments.
- Comments from groups, organisations and companies will be published online giving name of group, organisation and company only.
- No contact details will be published online, including home address, email or telephone number
- The Council may need to contact you to request further information or clarification in relation to the comment(s) made.
- Personal details will be used for the purposes of SPD production only.

For full data protection rights in planning please see: www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR