

Why Salisbury, Wiltshire:

Wiltshire published its Placement Sufficiency and Market Development Strategy 2022 -2026 that includes a strategic priority to “more family-based placements” so that local children are “guaranteed local placement choice in Wiltshire” the application for planning supports this objective. At time of publishing (end of March 2022) Wiltshire had 427 children who are looked after. Of this 146 were living more than 20 miles from home.

The Home:

The Home will be registered with Ofsted and as part of this process it will have a full statement of purpose that details the home and the staff team, and how they will care for, support and develop our children and young people. We are proposing a residential children’s home of no more than 3 children and/or young people, with primary needs being a learning disability or autism.

There are no proposed changes or alterations to the existing floor plans or layout either internally to the property or externally. The property will look the same as it does now, just like a ‘normal’ family home which is how we want the children to feel about it.

The Children:

The area is perfect for children as it has good health, community and educational facilities and we expect this to be a valuable and much needed facility for up to three children. Too many children are still housed too far from where they live and in inappropriate accommodation as identified in the Local Authorities sufficiency strategy, this Home will help children in need of residential care in the area. The children are likely to be aged 8 years plus.

Staffing

The staffing ratio would be as needed, potentially 1:1 per child although this of course would be based upon the children’s needs. There will be a Registered Home Manager Monday to Friday (and on call), and up to 5 care workers working on a rota basis (They would not all be on site at the same time). There will also be a Deputy Home Manager. All staff will be qualified and have experience of working with children with disabilities/LD and or other needs.

The Home will provide local employment opportunities for c.6 full time equivalent posts for people with the right qualifications. We will also be able to provide additional training and apprenticeships to local people interested in developing their careers in children’s care and support. In our last staff survey (March 2025) 78% of our team responded, positively 91% reported feeling proud to tell others they worked for Agincare, and 94% said they receive the training they need to do their job.

Vehicles/parking

The Home will have a vehicle for the children who reside there, and staff members may have their own vehicles to access the property. There is a garage for one car and a driveway for up to 2 cars. The location is supported with public transport including bus, train and park and ride.

The Company

The Company that will be responsible for this Home is Agincare Children’s Services Ltd, a not-for-profit company led by an experienced Operations Director with many years of working in children’s services.

Agincare Children’s Services founding member is Agincare Holdings, a family-owned group of companies that have provided care and support to people 18+ in the community and in care homes since 1986. Agincare Children’s Services have full access to the experienced support functions of Agincare, which has a long, well established track record for providing safe, high-quality care with many Local Authorities and NHS partners. In

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its last 'customer' survey in July 2024, 98% of those who responded said *'The care team is polite and behave respectfully'* and 97% said *'I feel safe with the care team'*

Supporting information:

- Children in care (CIC) in Wiltshire has increased the past 7 years.
- Wiltshire council operate 1 children's home with 7 beds, this provides respite and short term care.
- In addition, there are currently 17 independent residential children's homes in Wiltshire that can accommodate 66 children and young people.
- One third of Wiltshire children (146) are placed out of area (20 miles plus). This is mainly due to the availability at the time of the placement in Wiltshire, or the ability of the provider to meet the specific needs of the child or young person.
- *Primary focus: Guarantee additional residential provision in Wiltshire for Wiltshire children, the action being developing more residential children's home capacity*
- *This growth in capacity in Wiltshire would reduce the need to send children outside of Wiltshire and away from their family, friends and school.*

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