

Barclay Care Group

Local Needs information for Hayes (London Borough of Hillingdon)

Purpose

This document should be read in conjunction with paragraphs 3.9 to 3.15 from the Planning Statement which establishes the Identified Need in detail.

This document provides further evidence to support the Planning Statement, namely that there is urgent local need for children's residential care within the London Borough of Hillingdon and demonstrates that the proposed change of use to a children's residential care home (C2) will meet this need.

Introduction

Hillingdon Council has statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and provide care for looked-after children. Due to limited local provision, many children are currently placed in out-of-borough care homes, which has negative impacts on:

- Stability of care,
- Ability to maintain family connections,
- Access to education and local support services,
- Council budgets due to higher external placement costs.

Current Statistics – Local Need for Children's Care

The latest data from Hillingdon Children's Services (January 2025) shows a significant and growing demand for children's residential care:

1. Total looked-after children (LAC): 285
2. Children requiring residential (C2) care placements: 56
3. Children placed outside the borough due to lack of local provision: 34 (60.7% of total)
4. Looked-after children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP): 34.1% (National average: 31.5%)
5. Looked-after children receiving SEND support: 16.3% (National average: 26.3%)

Key findings from the January 2025 Families & Education Select Committee Report:

1. Approximately one in five looked-after children in Hillingdon need a specialist residential placement.
2. Over 60% of these children are placed outside the borough, frequently far from their families, friends, and local support networks.
3. Dependence on out-of-borough placements drives up council expenditure and undermines stability for vulnerable children.
4. Demand has surged because of a rise in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children — 128 of the 185 new looked-after children in the past six months are in this group.

The following external information and data further supports the significant and growing demand for children's residential care in Hillingdon:

1. Hillingdon Council [Annual Performance Report 2024/25 \(PDF\)](#):
 - a. The report confirms 330 children in care at 31 March 2025, an 16% increase from the January 2025 figure provided above. The council's annual performance report notes "growing need for placements" and increased use/cost of residential placements.
 - b. As a port authority area, due to the presence of Heathrow Airport, Hillingdon continues to play a critical role in supporting Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Hillingdon has 71 such children as of 31 March 2025, and has the second highest number of UASC (per 10,000) for all London boroughs.
 - c. This council report demonstrates the growing demand for children's residential care in the borough, as per the council's own report.

2. Hillingdon Council of decision 22 May 2025
<https://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3345>:
 - a. On 22 May 2025 Hillingdon Council cabinet approved funding to lease 3 properties to increase capacity/quality of children's homes in-borough to meet demand.
 - b. This emergency decision further demonstrates the significant and growing need for more children's residential care placements in Hillingdon.