

**Mohammed Ahmed**

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**From:** Toby Murray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 August 2021 21:37  
**To:** Planning Planning  
**Subject:** 2021/2911/P

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Beware – This email originated outside Camden Council and may be malicious Please take extra care with any links, attachments, requests to take action or for you to verify your password etc. Please note there have been reports of emails purporting to be about Covid 19 being used as cover for scams so extra vigilance is required.

Dear Mr Young,

Having reviewed the limited information available for the planning application of 24 Lady Margaret Road, we would like to submit our concerns with the development in line with clause 3.230 and policy C1c of the Camden Local Plan.

We are concerned that the owner of the building has not clearly set out how they plan to meet the needs of their potential residents, and would appreciate the council implementing “conditions and/or legal agreements to control the management of housing for people with support needs, and to specify the group or groups that it is intended to support”, as per clause 3.230.

Further, we are also concerned that the planned development would only add to a culture of private children’s care homes putting profit over the wellbeing of their residents. As recognised by the Government’s current Independent Review of Children’s Social Care, “the costs of [private residential children’s] homes and the lack of suitable foster carers means children are often placed in foster homes that do not meet their needs”. The review further highlights that the quality of residential children’s homes has been raised repeatedly and will be a major element of their review. We hope the council will act proactively to ensure good provision for any new residential children’s homes, prioritising the mental health and wellbeing of any potential residents in line with C1c (of which Mental Health and Building Family and Community Resilience are priorities in the current Camden Joint Strategic Needs Assessment).

Finally, as recognised by the review, costs of private residential children's homes are enormously inflated. "The average reported price per child for a place in an independent children’s home in England in 2018/19 was around £4,000 per week (more than £200,000 annualised), representing an increase of 40% on prices in 2012/13". We hope the planning committee would seriously consider whether another private children's care home is a viable long-term investment for the council, and "deliver value for money services by getting it right first time", as per clause 1.33 of the Local Plan.

However, we would also like to object to a number of responses so far submitted. We do not believe that children in care should be housed exclusively in the countryside, far away from where they have grown up and established social networks. We also vehemently reject any narrative that suggests that the opening of a residential children’s home is a security concern for young families or the elderly. We believe a residential children’s home could contribute positively to building a mixed, inclusive and sustainable community (H8d), as long as those children are given high quality support, and the owner is held to account for provision of that support by the council.

All the best,  
Toby Murray & Annabel Flinn

[REDACTED]

p.s, could we please request that our address is redacted if published online.