

Worthing Borough Council
Planning Services
Portland House
Richmond Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 1LF

26 January 2026

Dear Planning Officer,

Support for Planning Application – PP-14638378 – Kayleigh Botha

I am writing on behalf of West Sussex County Councils Early Years and Childcare Team to express our support for the planning application submitted by Kayleigh Botha for change of use on property Fitzalan Howard Day Centre, Pavilion Road, Gaisford, Worthing, BN14 7EF.

As you are aware, the UK Government's expansion of childcare, announced in the Spring Budget 2023, aims to improve accessibility and affordability for families by increasing the number of funded early years and childcare places. The proposed application would contribute to this national initiative by expanding childcare provision in the area, ensuring that more local families can access high-quality early years education and care. With the roll-out of the expanded entitlements, eligible working families with children aged from 9 months can now access up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week, increasing pressure on existing local capacity.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare places, so far as reasonably practicable, for working parents or those studying or training for employment. Access to high-quality early years provision is essential for supporting working families, reducing inequalities, and promoting children's learning and development. It also helps prepare children for school by equipping them with the foundational skills needed for long-term academic and personal success.

We encourage planning authorities to make use of the provisions added to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (paragraph 100) when determining this application. The framework states:

"It is important that a sufficient choice of early years, school and post-16 places are available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:

- a) give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter early years, schools and post-16 facilities through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and
- b) work with early years, school and post-16 promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted."

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Katy Akrill
Early Years and Childcare Team Manager - Sufficiency