

planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk

16th July 2025

Dear Officer,

Subject: Land at Foxhole Farm DM/25/1129

We are writing to you as local south east charities who work directly with children, young people and families in need of special education needs and disabilities (SEND) support. Our work gives us first-hand experience and unique insight into the scale and urgency of need – which is why we would like to express our full support behind the planning application on Land at Foxhole Farm (DM/25/1129)– a proposal that would provide a permanent, purpose-built home for Kangaroos Learning Disabilities Charity.

The proposed new home for Kangaroos could not come at a more critical time — the number of children requiring SEND support continues to rise rapidly, care costs are escalating, and many families are struggling to access the help they so desperately need. As organisations working on the frontline of providing care and support for children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities, we witness the life-changing impact of this work and the urgent need for investment to meet the growing demand.

Kangaroos already provides an essential lifeline for many families, providing activities and short breaks to a range of children and adults with complex needs. Their support extends to the whole family, with dedicated family and sibling programmes to provide respite and support for those with a disabled family member. The vital role of these services is reflected in the growing demand - there is currently a waiting list of more than 80 families hoping to access Kangaroos' services.

The proposed new Community Hub would be transformational. It would enable Kangaroos to serve those more than 80 families on their waiting list and expand its reach further. Furthermore, the new Hub would not only enable Kangaroos to deliver high-quality care and services to more children and young people with learning disabilities but also enhance the experience and services available to existing members.

We especially commend the thoughtfully designed facilities, which clearly reflect the strong collaboration between Wates and Kangaroos. The hub will help build confidence, independence and life skills in an inclusive and nurturing environment through well-equipped activity rooms, a learning kitchen, a sensory gym, and flexible spaces for running a pop-up shop and café.

There is a well-documented and pressing shortage of specialist SEND provision, both locally and nationally. The need for urgent, transformative action is undeniable – to ensure every child and adult has access to the care and opportunities they need to live a meaningful life.

We recognise that the proposed Community Hub for Kangaroos forms part of a wider proposal for new homes and public open spaces – with the hub serving as a vital piece of social infrastructure. We believe this integrated, community-focussed approach sets a positive precedent for future developments and we commend the partnership and shared vision between Wates and Kangaroos in bringing the proposals forward.

We urge you to support this application and help deliver a much-needed home for a charity that is already transforming lives – and has the potential to reach many more families who urgently need their support.

Yours faithfully,



Challengers Disability Charity



PACSO Charity



Jigsaw Charity



LinkAble, Charity



Children's Respite Trust