



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## CORPORATE PARENTING SUB-COMMISSION 4 JULY 2006

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

### Inspection and Management Visits to Children's Homes

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

##### Inspections

- 2.1 The Children's Homes Regulations 2001 require children's homes to be inspected by a regulatory inspector of the Commission for Social Care Inspection, which is the regulatory body responsible for registering homes. Inspectors carry out at least one inspection a year and make additional visits from time to time if necessary. They write a report of their visit which contains requirements and recommendations for the registered provider, the Council, to act on. The registered provider responds to the findings and produces an action plan. Inspections are based on national minimum standards for children's homes which are grouped to reflect the five outcomes for children defined in Every Child Matters.
- 2.2 Inspections have been carried out at Moorfield on 6 September 2005 and 13 February and 18 May 2006, Coronation Avenue on 29 June and 19 December 2005, Bute Walk on 17 July and 21 November 2005 and 25 April 2006, Queensferry Gardens on 16 November 2005 and Cricklewood Road on 11 August 2005 and 17 January 2006.
- 2.3 Homes are assessed and scored against 35 standards. A score of one indicates the standard is not met, *major shortfalls*, two that the standard is almost met, *minor shortfalls*, three the standard is met, *no shortfalls* and four the standard is exceeded, *commendable*. In the inspections carried out in the last year homes were assessed as follows.

2.4

Home	Date	Standards Not Met	Standards Almost Met	Standards Met	Standards exceeded	Standards not Inspected
<b>Moorfield</b>	06/09/05	8	6	6		14
	13/02/06	1	5	13		15
	18/05/06	0	2	26	4	3
<b>Coronation Ave</b>	28/06/05	3	7	12		13
	19/12/05	0	3	19		13
<b>Bute Walk</b>	17/07/05	1	3	12		19
	21/11/05	3	11	10		11
	25/04/06	0	2	26	1	6
<b>Queensferry Gardens</b>	09/06/05		4	18		13
	16/11/05		6	16	1	12
<b>Cricklewood Road</b>	11/08/05	1	9	12		13
	17/01/06	0	5	16	0	14

2.5 The latest inspections in all homes show that the vast majority of standards were fully met, a few were almost met or were exceeded, and no standards were judged to be not met. In this respect all homes have demonstrated a steady improvement on earlier inspections. Service improvements across all homes have contributed. A new system for administration and recording of medicines has been bedded in and staff have been trained to use it. Changes have been made to the way complaints and allegations of abuse are dealt with and training is now being rolled out to all staff. The recording of physical intervention and restraint has also been improved and the reduction in this kind of incident since 2004 has been sustained.

2.6 In the last few months the CSCI has adopted a new system for rating homes' overall performance. The assessments of Bute Walk in April and Moorfield in May were that they were three star services providing good outcomes for the people who use them. The latest assessment of Bute Walk reflects the progress made in restructuring the staff and management team, which we expect to be completed this year.

### Management Visits

2.7 Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 requires homes to be visited once a month by a representative of the registered provider who is not involved in the day to day management of the home and a report of the visit to be written. These visits are carried out by managers from all sections of children's social care.

2.8 Issues covered by management visitors include:

- The physical condition of the building inside and out
- The daily life of the home as portrayed in the daily log
- The use of formal sanctions and their appropriateness
- Comments of the children and staff
- Interaction between the children and staff
- Arrangements for health care and education
- How children are cared for and how behaviour is dealt with
- Complaints, compliments or comments
- Care plans
- How staff are trained, supported and consulted

2.9 All but three of the 70 visits required between August 2005 and May 2006 have been completed.

2.10 The overwhelming majority of visitors provided very positive reports of their visits and no serious concerns were raised. On the whole children and young people spoke positively about their experience of residential care, most appeared relaxed, interacted well with staff and were able to present their views with confidence. There are many positive observations about the approach and work of staff.

Issues raised in the reports included staffing matters such as vacancies, sickness and morale. Maintenance and health and safety issues were commented on as well as the general condition and homeliness of the buildings. Visitors made suggestions where necessary on administrative issues like recording and files. Care practices, arrangements for education and health care, managing difficult behaviour including the use of sanctions and restraint, the way bullying is addressed and complaints handled, and children's participation are all addressed in the reports.

Issues requiring action are always addressed by the homes managers and service managers and monitored by the head of service.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1: Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 Each Children's Home is subject to an annual fee for registration with the Commission for Social Care inspection.

**Legal**

- 2.1 National Minimum Standards are based on the legal requirements of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The Commission for Social Care Inspection has power to withdraw registration from Registered Providers or Homes which fail to satisfy legal requirements.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 Homes Managers are required to be registered by the Commission and are assessed before they are registered. Other staff are required to hold a minimum qualification.

**Equalities impact**

- 4.1 Standards require services to be provided which meet the needs of individuals arising from their gender, disability, religious, racial, cultural or linguistic background or sexual orientation. The Home is required to have appropriate policies and procedures and to provide training for staff on these issues.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 5.1 Children's Homes support the Council's and Derby City Partnership's priorities for improvement:
  - Improve the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods
  - Encourage lifelong learning and achievement
  - Build healthy and independent communities
  - Deliver excellent services, performance and value for money