



Derby City Council

Corporate Parenting Committee
25 July 2017

ITEM 11

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and
Young People

Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes

SUMMARY

1.1 Children's Homes are regulated and inspected by **Ofsted** as required by the Care Standards Act 2000. Inspections are based on the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and Quality Standards. Every children's home is inspected at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection.

1.2 Under the new framework, judgements are made on:

Overall progress and experiences of children and young people

- How well children and young people are helped and protected
- Impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers.

They judge the home according to a four point scale:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Inadequate

1.3 **Regulation 44** of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 requires each home to be visited by an employee of the organisation not directly concerned with the conduct of the home and a report to be written. Some visits are carried out by an independent visitor from outside of the Council. The rest are done by Managers in the Children and Young People's Directorate, who are completely independent of the Homes and have no involvement with young people placed in them. Reports of the visits are sent to Homes Managers who respond to any recommendations. The reports are circulated to Ofsted, Responsible Managers and Democratic Services.

1.4 **Elected Members** carry out annual visits to children's homes to monitor the quality of care and the welfare of children and young people. Visits fall within members' corporate parenting responsibilities.

After each visit members report on their observations and recommendations and

members are informed of actions taken as a result.

Visits to the Children’s Homes are currently being planned for September onwards. The Service Manager will in July, be delivering two briefing sessions to Members which will support them to undertake their visits.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider the content of report and make appropriate recommendations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Inspections are a key element of the regulatory function in relation to children’s homes. Management visits are a statutory requirement.
- 3.2 Visits by elected members are carried out as part of the Council’s Corporate Parenting duties.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Ofsted Inspections:

4.1 The dates and outcomes of inspections are as follows:

4.2

Home	Inspection Type	Date	Judgement
The Willows	Full	18 & 19 April 2017	Good
	Interim	December 2016	Sustained effectiveness
Cricklewood	Full	30 & 31 May 2017	Good
	Interim	January 2017	Sustained effectiveness
Shine	Interim	30 January 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	August 2016	Good
Bute Walk	Interim	7 February 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	August 2016	Good
402 Sinfin Lane	Interim	16 January 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	August 2016	Good
Coronation Avenue	Interim	20 December 2016	Improved effectiveness
	Full	July 2016	Good (1 st inspection)

4.3 From July 2016, there have been 13 visits undertaken by Ofsted.

4.4 402 Sinfin Lane has recently been inspected in June, and the Service is currently awaiting the publication later in July

4.5 There have been no serious issues highlighted by the Ofsted inspections.

Elected Members Visits:

5.1 Cllr. Sara Bolton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, visited Coronation

Avenue in February 2017 with Cllr. Ranjit Banwait, Leader of Derby City Council
The feedback to the Manager and staff after this visit was very positive.

5.2 Cllr. Sara Bolton also visited Shine in April 2017, along with a Charity -Titan Children's

Trust. The purpose of this visit was to look at what support could be offered to young people/children within Shine.

5.3 A further meeting has been set up to look at what support can be offered, and whether it can be rolled out to the other Children Homes going forward.

Regulation 44 Visits:

6.1 The following recommendations were made as a result of the Regulation 44 visits, which have taken place over the last few months:

6.2 **Willows:** Concerns were raised over challenging placement. Behaviour Support Plans were reviewed, and a managed move to another home was undertaken. Improvements were also made to Activity Planners. There was also an Increase in anti-bullying work. The Manager escalated concerns about young person's lack of education time, leading to initiatives which improved his engagement and attendance.

6.3 **402:** Work was initiated to improve consultation. Education, Employment, Training issues with an extremely challenging young person was raised. The Home has been doing well to hold the placement. Improvements have been made to Behaviour Support Plans.

6.4 **Bute Walk:** No major were issues were identified. Improvements have been made to Behaviour Support Plans.

6.5 **Coronation Avenue:** No major were issues identified. Work has been initiated to improve life skills work.

6.6 **Cricklewood:** Work has now been initiated to improve Placement Plans, record filing, Behaviour Support Plans and Manager's feedback to young people consultation meetings. Successful reconciliation wok completed between two young people. Initiative has also been undertaken to improve education attendance.

6.7 **Shine:** Work on the Sensory Garden is on-going. Training was initiated and is on-going to improve the recording on and use of Liquid logic. The Dishwasher has been replaced, as an alternative to repair due to cost.

6.8 The actions taken in response to Regulation 44 visits are complimented by monthly in depth Regulation 45 monitoring by the Manager. None of the above, with exception to two very challenging young people's behaviour, is majorly concerning.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None at this stage

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Suanne Lim
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sharon Green: 01332 642 740 - sharon.green@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The average cost of a place in Derby's children's homes compares favourably with similar placements in other local authorities and the independent sector.

Legal

- 2.1 Children's homes are regulated by Ofsted and are required to comply with National Minimum Standards.

Personnel

- 3.1 Staff working in children's homes are subject to Enhanced Vetting and Barring checks and expected to conform to high standards of conduct and performance.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and appropriate monitoring put in place.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 Children's homes are fully compliant with Health and Safety legislation and policies. General Risk Assessments and Stress Risk Assessments are regularly updated and managers have received appropriate training.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 Environmental sustainability is promoted, for instance by recycling, heating efficiency and insulation in so far as the design of the building allows. Roofing and cavity wall insulation has been installed in some buildings.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 A five year programme of replacement and refurbishment is under way and has been the subject of separate reports to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Risk Management

- 8.1 The Business Continuity Plan contains an assessment of risks and control measures in place.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The report contributes to the following Council objectives:
Good quality services that meet local needs.