

Visits to Residential Children's Homes

SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of fulfilling their role as Corporate Parents, Councillors make visits to Children's Homes on a regular basis.
- 1.2 This report sets out the timetable for these visits for the forthcoming year.
- 1.3 A protocol for visiting Children's Homes was agreed in 2012 and sets out how the reports from Councillors will be monitored.
- 1.4 In addition to Councillor visits, all Children's Homes are subject to monitoring visits on behalf of the registered provider under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations. The draft work programme sets out when these reports will be brought to the Board
- 1.5 The Sub-Board will also be given the opportunity to review and monitor progress against the Children's Homes Ofsted reports at relevant times across the year.
- 1.6 The report asks the Board to consider a programme of unannounced visits to the residential children's home's and a protocol for these visits is attached in appendix 3 for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report.
- 2.2 To note arrangements for reporting Regulation 33 reports.
- 2.3 To note arrangements for reporting Ofsted reports.
- 2.4 To approve the protocol for unannounced visits to residential children's homes

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Members with the opportunity to consider the timetable for visits to Children's Homes.

- 3.2 To update members on the arrangements for reporting Regulation 33 reports.
- 3.3 To update Members on the arrangements for reporting Ofsted reports.
- 3.4 To provide Members of the Board with the opportunity to approve the protocol for unannounced visits to residential children's homes

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Following the reconfiguration of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Board in December 2010 and the approval of the protocol for residential children's home visits it was agreed that the visits would take place twice a year. The table in appendix 2 sets out the proposed timetable for this year's visits.
- 4.2 To encourage the development of good working relationships between Councillors and the homes and between children and Councillors in their role as corporate parents a series of unannounced visits are planned. In order that a home is not visited too frequently a protocol for these visits is attached at appendix 3
- 4.3 Regulation 33 visits are a statutory requirement and are completed by an officer not directly involved in the running of the home. Reports are monitored by the Registered Person and by the Regulatory Inspector on behalf of Ofsted. To assist the Corporate Parenting Sub-Board in monitoring the well-being of children in residential care to receive a summary of these reports at regular intervals.
- 4.4 Ofsted carries out at least one full inspection and one interim inspection each year. Members attending visits receive the most recent Ofsted with their visit information pack.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property Officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	Phil O'Brien, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

For more information contact:	Ellen Bird 01332 643646 e-mail ellen.bird@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	Member Visit to Children's Homes Protocol
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Timetable for Member Visits to Children's Homes Appendix 3 – Draft protocol for unannounced visits

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 This report contributes to the following Council objectives:
- Feeling safe and being safe
 - Good quality services that meet local needs
 - Achieving their learning potential

- An active cultural life
- A strong community
- Good health and well-being
- A skilled and motivated workforce.