



Derby City Council

CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE
23 February 2016

ITEM 10

Report of the Acting 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 A new framework for the inspection of children's homes was published in April 2015. Previously, at a full inspection, inspectors made judgements on:
- overall effectiveness
 - outcomes for children
 - quality of care
 - safeguarding
 - leadership and management.

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 (replaces 'adequate')
- 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 periodic 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.

This report summarises the inspections and reports of visits done since the last report to the Board on 22 September 2015

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report.

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

- 4.1 The dates and outcomes of inspections since the last report are presented in the table below. The inspections of Coronation Avenue took place during its temporary closure and the home was therefore not judged.
- 4.2 402 Sinfin Lane had one requirement which was about statutory notifications. Shine had one requirement to do with case recording. Cricklewood Road had one requirement which concerned staffing levels. Bute Walk had one recommendation which was about return interviews when young people had been missing.

Home	Date of inspection	Type of inspection	Judgement	Previous judgement
402 Sinfin Lane	23/9/15	Full	Good	First inspection
400 Sinfin Lane	30/12/15	Interim	Improved effectiveness	Good
Coronation Avenue	14/12/15	Interim	Not judged	Good
Coronation Avenue	30/9/15	Interim	Not judged	Good
Queensferry Gardens	9/11/15	Sustained effectiveness	Good	Good
Shine	7/1/16	Full	Improved effectiveness	Good
Cricklewood Road	30/9/15	Interim	Improved effectiveness	Requires improvement
Bute Walk	27/10/15	Full	Good	Improved effectiveness

- 4.3 From September to December 2015 all required visits were completed, 28 in total. No serious concerns have been raised and the regulatory inspector has commented on the high standard of reports. The independent visitor has supported new visitors, worked with registered managers to improve services and contributed to a management development day.
- 4.4 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding Councillor Sara Bolton, has implemented a programme of member visits for the rest of this year supported by a briefing to members on this role and responsibility. Visits were made to Queensferry Gardens on 3 September 2015 and Cricklewood Road on 6 September 2016. Informal visits were also made to all other Children Homes.
- 4.5 Councillors Bolton and Froggatt raised the decoration of the lounge at Queensferry Gardens after a young person spoke to them about it. The manager responded that the lounge was due to be redecorated and young people were being consulted about the colour scheme. Otherwise the report was positive
- 4.6 Councillors Bolton, Whitby and Froggatt gave a positive report of their visit to Cricklewood Road and no issues were raised.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 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)	Hazel Lymbery, Service Director, Specialist Services 01332 642669, hazel.lymbery@derby.gov.uk
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Rod Jones 01332 643815 rod.jones@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.