



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 Regulations 2011, Children's Homes: National Minimum Standards and the Children Act 1989, Regulations and Guidance, Volume 5, children's homes. Every children's home is inspected at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection.
- 1.2 At a full inspection, inspectors make judgements on overall effectiveness, outcomes for children, quality of care, safeguarding and leadership and management. They judge the home according to a four point scale: an inadequate service does not meet minimum requirements; an adequate service only meets minimum requirements; a good service is of high quality and exceeds minimum requirements; an outstanding service is of exceptional quality and significantly exceeds minimum requirements.
- 1.3 Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 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. New regulations introduced in 2014 require more independence and impartiality on the part of the visitor than previously. As a result some visits are now carried out by an independent regulation 33 visitor. The rest are still done by managers in the CYP 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, the Head of Service and Service Director 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 2 December 2014.

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.

Home	Date of inspection	Type of inspection	Judgement	Previous judgement
Moorfield	5/12/14	Interim	Sustained effectiveness	Good
Coronation Avenue	15/10/14	Full	Good	Good
Queensferry Gardens	5/1/15	Interim	Improved effectiveness	Adequate
Shine	21/1/15	Interim	Improved effectiveness	Good
Bute Walk	03/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness	Good

- 4.4 In the last three months of 2014, 23 out of a possible 24 management visits have been completed. No serious concerns have been raised and the reporting template and guidance has been changed to comply with new guidance and regulations. This has resulted in an improvement in the quality and depth of reports.
- 4.5 Councillors Whitby and Bailey visited Coronation Avenue on 7 October. They raised minor maintenance issues and referred to the planned replacement of the home.

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
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 The value and long term future of the five children's homes has been reviewed by the Estates Department. Proposals have been put forward for the long-term management of the buildings.

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.