



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Committee  
21 February 2017**

Report of the Strategic Director for People  
Services

# ITEM 7

## Elected Member Visits to Children's Homes

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 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 committee on 20 September 2016. A visit to Cricklewood Road took place in July and was reported to the September Corporate Parenting Committee.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Visits by elected members are carried out as part of the Council's Corporate Parenting duties.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding Councillor Sara Bolton, coordinated a programme of member visits during November and December 2016 supported by a briefing to members on this role and responsibility.

4.2	<b>Home</b>	<b>Date of visit</b>	<b>Visited by</b>
	The Willows	24 October	Councillor Turner Councillor Smale
	55 Coronation Avenue	2 November	Councillor Turner Councillor Smale
	402 Sinfin Lane	16 November	Councillor Whitby Councillor West
	22 Bute Walk	7 December	Councillor Harwood Councillor Froggatt
	Shine	20 December	Councillor Grimadell Councillor S Khan

- 4.3 Reports of all visits have been received and responded to. No serious issues requiring action were identified.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 None considered at this stage

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b>  <b>Other(s)</b>	Hazel Lymbery, Service Director, Specialist Services 01332 642669, hazel.lymbery@derby.gov.uk
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Rod Jones 01332 643815 rod.jones@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**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.