



Corporate Parenting Committee
22 September 2015

ITEM 7

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 10 March 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 inspection of Coronation Avenue took place after its temporary closure and the home was therefore not judged. The inspection of Cricklewood Road took place during an unsettled period after the merger of two homes as part of the children's homes development programme. An action plan has been developed in response to the requirements imposed at this inspection.

Home	Date of inspection	Type of inspection	Judgement	Previous judgement
400 Sinfen Lane	28/7/15	Full	Good	First inspection
Coronation Avenue	20/2/15	Interim	Not judged	Good
Queensferry Gardens	12/5/15	Full	Good	Adequate
Shine	13/7/15	Full	Good	Good
Cricklewood Road	30/4/14	Full	Requires improvement	Adequate
Bute Walk	3/2/15	Interim	Improved effectiveness	Good

- 4.2 From January 2015 to August 2015 all required visits were completed, 49 in total. No serious concerns have been raised and the reporting template and guidance has been changed to comply with new guidance and regulations. This, combined with more detailed feedback by the independent visitor to the homes' managers, has resulted in an improvement in the quality and depth of reports.
- 4.3 The lead 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 have recently been completed to Queensferry Gardens and Cricklewood Road and will be reported on at the next update to Corporate Parenting Committee.

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 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.