



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 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
 - 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 Peoples Services 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.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the content of report, inspection outcomes and work undertaken.

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

Ofsted Inspections:

- 4.1 The dates and outcomes of inspections are as follows:

4.2

Home	Inspection Type	Date	Judgement
The Willows	Interim	8 December 2016	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	18 April 2017	Good
Cricklewood	Interim	4 January 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	30 & 31 May 2017	Good
Shine	Interim	January 2018	Declined effectiveness
	Full	21 & 22 August 2017	Good
Bute Walk	Interim	7 February 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	25 & 26 July 2017	Good
402 Sinfin Lane	Interim	10 October 2017	Requires improvement
	Full	12 & 13 June 2017	Requires improvement
Coronation Avenue	Interim	20 December 2016	Improved effectiveness
	Full	17 July 2017	Good

Please note:

Ofsted inspect Children's Homes that were judged '**Inadequate**' or '**Requires improvement**' to be good at their last full inspection **at least twice** in each year-long inspection period (from 1 April to 31 March).

Ofsted carry out **at least 1** full inspection of Homes that were judged as '**Outstanding**' or '**Good**' during a year-long inspection period. An initial risk assessment is undertaken for every children's home judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' at the start of the inspection year to inform an initial decision of whether these homes will be subject to a second inspection (an interim inspection) in addition to a full inspection.

- 4.3 1 visit has been undertaken by Ofsted, this was to Shine in January 2018. They subsequently received Declined Effectiveness.
- 4.4 Declined Effectiveness was given in relation to ensuring that the service was compliant within their recruitment procedures and training.
- 4.5 There have been no other serious issues highlighted by the Ofsted inspections.

Elected Members Visits:

- 5.1 Corporate Parenting training sessions were delivered to Derby City Councillors since the last Corporate Parenting Committee. Queensferry Gardens is still being refurbished, and is due to re-open late May 2018. This Home has not been subject to inspection or Member visit this year due to the refurbishment. However, prior to the Home reopening, a Variation Form will need to be completed which informs Ofsted of the changes that have taken place.
- 5.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding made an independent visit to Coronation Avenue on the 19 February 2018 with the Director of Children's Integrated Services. The feedback to this Home was positive.

Regulation 44 Visits:

- 6.1 Each home is visited unannounced by an independent officer ever month. The following recommendations were made as a result of the Regulation 44 visits, which have taken place over the last period:
- 6.2 **The Willows:** Overall the reports were positive and acknowledged the work being undertaken by the staff. It was noted within the report that the appearance of the Home was not as expected due to damage caused by some of the young people. The Home has agreed that they will make some positive improvements after consultation with the young people concerned.

- 6.3 **402:** Overall, the reports were positive and reflected that the young people presented complex and challenging behaviours, which the Home were managing. Again the reports acknowledged that the staff team were committed to meeting the needs and best possible outcomes of the young people. One main concern raised again was with regards to the security of the external doors and the possible associated risks. This issue has been ongoing for some time due to having to ensure that the right specification in place. This issue should be resolved early April 2018.
- 6.4 **Bute Walk:** The reports were positive however it was acknowledged that the Home is going through a challenging period in relation to the management of the young people. It was noted on the last visit that staff were continuing to try to engage the young people however, this was still challenging. There has been a major concern raised with regards to disturbances both inside and outside of the Home. This issue is currently being addressed.
- There was also a couple of other issues that were identified that required action, tidying up of the outside gardens and supporting through the Health Plans, the cessation of smoking amongst some young people. These are being addressed.
- 6.5 **Coronation Avenue:** All reports were generally positive however a concern was raised at the last inspection with regards to a transition plan for a young person. It was recommended that a robust plan needs to be in place to ensure that suitable accommodation is sought going forward.
- 6.6 **Cricklewood:** Overall reports were positive. A concern raised with regards to the challenging behaviours of the young people through the night time. There were a couple of concerns with regards to reminding Regulation 44 visitors that access to young people's files is subject to their agreement, which needs recording, and ensuring that Placement Plan Information Record is used to improve poor attendance at an educational establishment.
- 6.7 **Shine:** Overall reports highlighted a number of positives and children's needs were being met. A couple of recommendations were made in relation to WiFi access, and an issue with hot water in a young person's room, which is now being followed up on.
- 6.8 **The Lighthouse:** The reports were positive overall, however, there were concerns raised with regards to the level of staff absence. It was acknowledged that this was work in progress to continuously improve. A couple of recommendations made were in relation to ensuring that forms were completed when reporting young people missing, and use of electronic recording and monitoring processes.

The actions taken in response to Regulation 44 visits are complimented by in depth Regulation 45 monitoring by each Home Manager on a monthly basis and then monitored for assurance the Service Manager and Head of Service.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 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 Lymberry
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sharon Green: 01332 642 740 - sharon.green@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.

IT

- 4.1 There are no IT implications.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and appropriate monitoring put in place.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 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

- 7.1 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

- 8.1 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

- 9.1 The Business Continuity Plan contains an assessment of risks and control measures in place.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The report contributes to the following Council objectives:
Good quality services that meet local needs.