



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 The framework for the inspection of children's homes was published in April 2015.

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 23 February 2016.

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. Where the previous inspection was an interim inspection or the home was not judged the outcome of the previous full inspection is also shown. The previous inspection of Coronation Avenue took place during its temporary closure and the home was therefore not judged.
- 4.2 There were no requirements or recommendations arising from the March inspection of The 402 Sinfin Lane.
- 4.3 The March inspection of Bute Walk resulted in one requirement concerning case recording, where certain gaps were found.
- 4.4 The April inspection of The Willows resulted in three requirements relating to qualifications of night-care assistants, case recording and monitoring measures of control and discipline. There were also two recommendations about return interviews of young people who have been missing and the workforce development plan.
- 4.5 Cricklewood Road had two requirements, one concerning young people having their own bedroom keys and the other concerning case recording. There were also recommendations about how young people's views were recorded, requesting return interviews after young people have been missing and the need to create a workforce plan.
- 4.6 From the July inspection of 55 Coronation Avenue, there were two requirements relating to case recording and staffing levels. There were also recommendations to do with return interviews for children who go missing, a workforce plan and first aid training.

- 4.7 From the August inspection of 402 Sinfin Lane there were two requirements and three recommendations. The requirements concerned the qualifications of night-care assistants and accurate recording of physical intervention. The recommendations concerned return interviews of young people who have been missing, the workforce plan and the frequency of supervision.
- 4.8 At the time of writing this report the inspection report on Bute Walk had not been received.
- 4.9 A number of the recommendations referred to above arise from the phased introduction of the electronic children's recording system, which requires a period of adjustment.

4.10

Home	Date of inspection	Type of inspection	Judgement	Previous judgement
402 Sinfin Lane	2/3/16	Interim	Sustained effectiveness	Good
22 Bute Walk	8/3/16	Interim	Improved effectiveness	Good
The Willows	21/4/16	Full	Good	1. Good. 2. Improved effectiveness.
19 Cricklewood Road	14/6/16	Full	Good	1.Requires improvement 2.Improved effectiveness
55 Coronation Avenue	21/7/16	Full	Good	1.Not judged 2.Good
402 Sinfin Lane	4/8/16	Full	Good	Sustained effectiveness
22 Bute Walk	15/8/16	Full	Good	1. Good. 2. Sustained effectiveness.

- 4.11 From January to July 2016 all required visits were completed, 49 in total. No serious concerns have been raised but regulation 44 reports have provided valuable insights to help managers address pressures. The regulatory inspector has commented on the high standard of reports. The independent visitor has also supported new visitors, worked with registered managers to improve services and contributed to a management development day. A copy of all reports is sent to elected members through Democratic Services.
- 4.12 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.
- 4.13 Councillors Whitby, Froggatt and Pegg visited Cricklewood Road on 21 July 2016. They wrote a positive report of their visit and did not raise any concerns.

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)	Suanne Lim, Service Director, Specialist Services 01332 642669, suanne.lim@derby.gov.uk
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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.