



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**CORPORATE PARENTING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
JOINT SUB-COMMISSION
2 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Inspection and Management Visits to Children's Homes

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the contents of this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Inspections

- 2.1 The Children's Homes Regulations 2001 require children's homes to be inspected by a regulatory inspector of Ofsted, which is the regulatory body responsible for registering homes. Inspectors carry out at least one inspection a year and make additional visits from time to time if necessary. They write a report of their visit which contains requirements and recommendations for the registered provider, the Council, to act on. The registered provider responds to the findings and produces an action plan. Inspections are based on national minimum standards for children's homes which are grouped to reflect the five outcomes for children defined in Every Child Matters.
- 2.2 Inspections have been carried out at Moorfield on 24 June, Coronation Avenue on 21 February, Bute Walk on 1 May, Queensferry Gardens on 3 June and Cricklewood Road on 16 June 2008.

- 2.3 The purpose of inspection is to assure children, young people, parents, the public, Local Authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. Inspections are carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000. Reports detail the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004 and the relevant National Minimum Standards for the service.

Inspection judgements are given as follows:

Outstanding	This aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Good	This aspect of the provision is strong
Satisfactory	This aspect of the provision is sound
Inadequate	This aspect of the provision is not good enough

In the inspections carried out this year homes were assessed as follows:

Moorfield	Satisfactory
Coronation Avenue	Good
Bute Walk	Satisfactory
Queensferry Gardens	Outstanding
Cricklewood Road	Satisfactory

Three homes had no requirements. Across all homes there were only two requirements:

- Consult the fire authority about adequate arrangements for evacuation in the event of a fire in respect of the use of a lounge chair on the upstairs landing of a fire exit route (Moorfield)
- Ensure adequate precautions are taken against the risk of fire by updating the fire risk assessment and by carrying out fire drills at night (Bute Walk)

Management Visits

- 2.7 Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 requires homes to be visited once a month by a representative of the registered provider who is not involved in the day to day management of the home and a report of the visit to be written. These visits are carried out by managers from all sections of children's social care.
- 2.8 Issues covered by management visitors include:
- The physical condition of the building inside and out
 - The daily life of the home as portrayed in the daily log
 - The use of formal sanctions and their appropriateness
 - Comments of the children and staff
 - Interaction between the children and staff
 - Arrangements for health care and education
 - How children are cared for and how behaviour is dealt with
 - Complaints, compliments or comments
 - Care plans
 - How staff are trained, supported and consulted
- 2.9 109 of the 112 visits required between April 2007 and June 2008 have been completed. Any practice issues arising from the visits are addressed with the registered manager and monitored through supervision. Any issues relating to the safety or welfare of children are referred to the appropriate person and addressed as necessary. No serious concerns about children's safety or welfare have arisen from management visits during this period. Although every effort is made to re-allocate visits missed due to operational pressures at times it is not possible to do so within the required timescale. Three visits out of 112 were missed during the 12 months covered, none at the same home.

For more information contact:	Rod Jones 01332 717012 e-mail rod.jones@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1: Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Each Children's Home is subject to an annual fee for registration with Ofsted.

Legal

- 2.1 National Minimum Standards are based on the legal requirements of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. Ofsted has power to withdraw registration from Registered Providers or Homes which fail to satisfy legal requirements.

Personnel

- 3.1 Homes Managers are required to be registered by the Ofsted and are assessed before they are registered. Other staff are required to hold a minimum qualification.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 Standards require services to be provided which meet the needs of individuals arising from their gender, disability, religious, racial, cultural or linguistic background or sexual orientation. The Home is required to have appropriate policies and procedures and to provide training for staff on these issues.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 Children's Homes support the Five Outcomes for Children identified in Every Child Matters, which form the basis of the objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan.