



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Sub Board
11 February 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director for Children and
Young People

ITEM 9

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 Regulations 2011, Children's Homes: National Minimum Standards and the Children Act 1989, Regulations and Guidance, Volume 5, children's homes. Every children's home is inspected at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection.
- 1.2 At a full inspection, inspectors make judgements on overall effectiveness, outcomes for children, quality of care, safeguarding and leadership and management. They judge the home according to a four point scale: an inadequate service does not meet minimum requirements; an adequate service only meets minimum requirements; a good service is of high quality and exceeds minimum requirements; an outstanding service is of exceptional quality and significantly exceeds minimum requirements.
- 1.3 Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 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. The visits are carried out by managers in the CYP Directorate and sent to Homes Managers who respond to any recommendations. Reports are circulated to Ofsted, the Head of Service and Service Director 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.
- 1.5 After each visit members report on their observations and recommendations and members are informed of actions taken as a result.
- 1.6 This report summarises the inspections and reports of visits done in 2013 and the responses.

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 Full inspections took place at 22 Bute Walk on 16 May, Moorfield on 3 June, 19 Cricklewood Road on 17 June and 86 Queensferry Gardens on 20 June 2013. There has been no key inspection of Coronation Avenue this year. The inspection judgements were as follows:

Home	Date of inspection	Type of inspection	Judgement	Previous judgement
Bute Walk	16/5/13	Full	Adequate	Inadequate
Moorfield	3/6/13	Full	Good	Adequate
Cricklewood Road	17/6/13	Full	Adequate	Adequate
Queensferry Gardens	20/6/13	Full	Good	Adequate
Coronation Avenue				Good

- 4.3 There has also been one interim inspection at Moorfield in December when it was judged to be making good progress with outstanding features (written report not yet received).
- 4.4 In 2013, 94 out of a possible 96 management visits have been completed. No serious concerns have been raised but the reporting template has been expanded following Ofsted advice to encourage visitors to provide more challenge to the homes' practice.
- 4.5 Councillor Bailey visited Bute Walk on 21 November 2013. There were no issues requiring action or a response.
- Councillors Martin, Winter and Bailey visited Coronation Avenue on 19 February. Concerns raised about the extraction system in the kitchen were taken up with property services and some changes made
- 4.6 Councillors Campbell and Davies visited Coronation Avenue on 24 October 2013. Their report indicated the need to amend the guidance to clarify the reference to an 'incident book'.

- 4.7 Councillor Allen visited Moorfield on 27 August. He raised an issue to do with PC and internet access, which is the subject of a separate report.
- 4.8 On 5 December Councillors Bolton, Repton and Carr visited Cricklewood Road. Councillors commented on maintenance project which were due to be rectified. No other issues required action or a response.
- 4.9 Councillors Bailey and Martin visited Moorfield on 17 August. No issues were raised which required action or a response.

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)	N/A N/A N/A N/A Hazel Lymbery, Service Director, Specialist Services
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Rod Jones 01332 643815 rod.jones@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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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 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.