



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## CORPORATE PARENTING JOINT SUB-COMMISSION 23 FEBRUARY 2005

Report of the Director of Social Services

### Inspection of Children's Homes

#### RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To note the contents of this report.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 Children's Homes are required by law to be inspected by a Regulatory Inspector of the Commission for Social Care Inspection twice a year. The Commission is the regulatory body responsible for registering Homes. Inspectors make one announced visit to carry out a full inspection, and one shorter unannounced visit a year. They 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 were published in 2002. Providers have been given time to improve Homes to meet the standards.

This report summarises the results of the last two inspections of each home, with the exception of Vicarage Road for which there is only one.

2.2 Vicarage Road Family Centre had a full inspection on the 24 August 2004.

- 25 standards met
- 3 standards exceeded
- 4 standards almost met
- 3 standards not assessed

The standards not fully met related to the physical environment and the Inspectors recognised that the Home was due for closure. They found the Home well managed and service users on the whole satisfied. Staff were experienced, provided a good quality of care and enjoyed positive and respectful relationships with service users.

### 2.3 Moorfield Children's Centre had a full inspection on the 8 September 2004.

- 18 standards met
- 16 standards almost met
- One standard not met

The standard not met related to health and safety and was the result of loose electrical wiring and fire doors wedged open with non-approved devices. The centre was found to have a supportive management structure and a core of committed and enthusiastic staff with a diversity of skills, abilities and experience. Plans and reviews were up to date, all children had good health care plans and were receiving education, there was good care and control and clear boundaries. Inspectors found there were some outstanding repairs, some of which they considered urgent.

An unannounced inspection took place on 26 October 2004 and found none of the four standards inspected were met. The shortfalls related to shortfall in processing complaints, response to allegations and suspicions of abuse, adequacy of staffing and completion of risk assessments. The registered manager disputed these findings.

### 2.4 Bute Walk Children's Home had a full inspection on the 6 July 2004.

- 9 standards met
- 16 standards almost met
- 10 standards not met

Inspectors found there had been some progress since the previous inspection in March which was attributable to the temporary management team. Staffing levels and the quality of care had improved, quality assurance systems had been introduced and refurbishment was under way. Standards not met related to administration, policies and procedures, training, response to complaints, health and safety, building maintenance, vetting staff and behaviour management.

An additional visit on the 6 October 2004 found there were continuing weaknesses due to staffing difficulties but they were not impacting on the quality of care. The Commission accepted that further progress depends on addressing issues with the permanent staff team and approved plans to achieve this.

- 2.5 Cricklewood Road Children's Home had an unannounced inspection on the 29 June 2004. The inspector found one standard not met due to a child's need for one to one staffing and because not all staff had current CRB checks.

A full inspection took place on the 7-8 August 2004.

- 22 standards met
- 11 standards almost met
- Two standards not met

The inspectors found Cricklewood to be a pleasant, well-managed home delivering a good standard of care with positive relationships between staff and young people. The standards not met related to

- 2.6 Coronation Avenue Children's Home had an unannounced inspection on the 28 June 2004 which found none of four standards inspected were met. They related to recording and acting on a child's views, compliance with child protection procedures, staffing levels and the quality of care plans and risk assessment. The Registered Manager disputed two of these findings.

A full inspection took place on the 21-22 July 2004.

- Seven standards met
- Nine standards almost met
- 18 standards not met

The inspectors found that sickness levels were affecting continuity and there was a high use of temporary staff. The Registered Manager lacked influence over admissions and as a result there had been some inappropriate admissions and children were not receiving the best quality of care. The standards not met covered a variety of care and management issues. The Registered Provider disputed some of these conclusions and action to address the shortcomings is being taken with the Registered Manager.

2.7 Queensferry Gardens Children's Home received and full inspection the 9 August 2004.

- 22 standards met
- 11 standards almost met
- Two standards not met

The Home was found to be well managed with an effective and stable staff team. The building was pleasant and well maintained and care and control was good. Standards not met related to administrative and building issues.

An unannounced inspection took place on the 18 December 2004.

- 22standards met
- Seven standards almost met
- Six standards not assessed

The conclusions were more or less identical to the August inspection.

<b>For more information contact:</b> K. Woodthorpe 422 7604
<b>Background papers:</b> None
<b>List of appendices:</b> Appendix 1 – Implications

## Appendix 1

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Financial

- 1.1 Each Children's Home is subject to an annual fee for registration with the Commission for Social Care inspection.

#### Legal

- 2.1 National Minimum Standards are based on the legal requirements of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. The Commission for Social Care Inspection 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 Commission 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 Council's objective of protecting and supporting people.