

Inspections of Children's Homes

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Children's homes are subject to one full inspection and one interim inspection by Ofsted each year.
- 1.2 Ofsted issued a revised inspection framework, including evaluation schedules, grade descriptors and guidance for inspectors on 1 April 2012 to drive an improvement in standards of care and management.
- 1.3 The grades used are as follows:
 - Outstanding: a service that significantly exceeds minimum requirements
 - Good: a service that exceeds minimum requirements
 - Adequate: a service that only meets minimum requirements
 - Inadequate: a service that does not meet minimum requirements
- 1.4 This report covers the most recent full inspection at each home. The five inspections included are the first to have been carried out since the inspection framework was revised. In three cases the revised inspection framework has resulted in a lower grade than at the previous inspection.
- 1.5 Following each inspection an action plan is written to ensure the requirements are complied with and managers are working with staff groups to improve performance and understanding of the inspection framework.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 To receive a further report following interim inspections.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is a legal requirement that children's homes are registered and meet minimum standards.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 Bute Walk Children's Home 23 May 2012

Bute Walk was judged to be good at two full inspections in 2011. At this inspection the judgement on overall effectiveness was inadequate. Judgements in individual categories were:

- Outcomes for children and young people: adequate
- Quality of care: adequate
- Safeguarding: inadequate
- Leadership and management: inadequate.

There were seven requirements:

- Implement the procedure to be followed when any child accommodated in the home is absent without permission
- Ensure that staff do not impose any financial penalty, other than a requirement for the payment of a reasonable sum by way of reparation
- Ensure that a written record is made of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline which shall include the effectiveness and any consequences of the use of the measure
- Ensure that a written record is kept of the administration of any medicine to any child including the reason for any refusal
- Ensure that all persons employed at the home receive appropriate supervision and appraisal
- Ensure that records in respect of each child accommodated in the home are kept up to date
- Notify without delay the HMCI of any event listed in Schedule 5 as indicated in column 2 of the table.

There was one recommendation:

- Ensure that staff understand and apply at all times the homes written policy on managing behaviour. This relates to the use of restraint and the most appropriate intervention for individual young people.

4.2 Moorfield Children's Centre 15 June 2012

Moorfield was judged to be satisfactory at two inspections in 2011. At the interim inspection On 10 January 2012, Moorfield was judged to be making good progress. At this inspection the judgement on overall effectiveness was inadequate. Judgements in individual categories were:

- Outcomes for children and young people: adequate
- Quality of care: adequate
- Safeguarding: inadequate
- Leadership and management: inadequate.

There were seven requirements:

- Provide for the prompt referral to the local authority in whose area the children's home is situated, of any allegation of abuse or neglect affecting any child accommodated in the children's home
- Ensure that the registered person establishes and maintains a system for monitoring the matters set out in Schedule 6; this is in particular relation to the use of the measures of control, restraint and discipline in respect of the children accommodated
- Ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in the home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose which includes all elements of this Regulation
- Ensure that where a measure of restraint is used in the home, this must be proportionate and no more force used than is necessary
- Ensure that if any of the events listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 5 takes place, the registered person shall, without delay, notify the persons indicated in respect of column 2 of the table; this is in particular relation to notifications to Ofsted.

There were no recommendations.

4.3 Queensferry Gardens Children's Home 10 July 2012

At the full inspection on 2 August 2011, Queensferry Gardens was judged to be good. At the interim inspection on 30 January 2012 it was judged to be making good progress. At this inspection the judgement of overall effectiveness was adequate. Judgements in individual categories were:

- Outcomes for children and young people: adequate
- Quality of care: adequate
- Safeguarding: good
- Leadership and management: adequate.

There were four requirements:

- Appoint a manager of the children's home
- Ensure children accommodated in the home are encouraged to develop and pursue appropriate leisure interests and are provided with appropriate leisure facilities and activities
- Ensure all persons employed by the home receive appropriate training and supervision
- Notify, without delay, the HMCI of any event listed in Schedule 5 as indicated in column 2 of the table.

There was one recommendation:

- Ensure the views, wishes and feelings of all children are taken into account in all aspects of their care.

4.4 Coronation Avenue Children's Home 8 August 2012

At the two inspections in 2011, Coronation Avenue was judged to be good. At the interim inspection on 7 March 2012 progress was judged to be satisfactory. At this inspection the judgement of overall effectiveness was good. Judgements in individual categories were:

- Outcomes for children and young people: good
- Quality of care: good
- Safeguarding: good
- Leadership and management: good

There were no requirements or recommendations.

4.5 Cricklewood Road Children's Home 15 August 2012

At the last full inspection on 25/06/11 Cricklewood Road was judged satisfactory. At the next interim inspection on 23/02/12 it was judged to be making good progress. At this inspection the judgement of overall effectiveness was adequate. Judgements in individual categories were:

- Outcomes for children and young people: good
- Quality of care: adequate
- Safeguarding: adequate
- Leadership and management: adequate

There were two requirements:

- Ensure that within 24 hours of the use of any measure of control, restraint or discipline in a children's home, a written record is made in a volume kept for the purpose
- Ensure all persons employed receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal.

There was one recommendation:

- Ensure records are clear, up to date and stored securely, and contribute to an understanding of the child's life.

4.6 During the period from 23 May 2012, from the initial inspection of Bute Walk to the end of August, there have been follow-up interim inspections undertaken of both Moorfield and Bute Walk. In relation to both children's homes the inspection outcomes have noted significant improvements. There have been no recommendations or requirements highlighted that require further attention.

- 4.7 In relation to Bute Walk the interim inspection was completed on 12 September 2012. The initial feedback from the inspector highlighted that since the 23 of May, the date of the full inspection, progress made was good. Reporting that the home had met all the requirements and recommendations made and commented favourably upon the robust actions to address the recommendations and requirements. The inspector further reported that the overall effectiveness of the service was progressing well.
- 4.8 The period over the last three months has seen a plan of action being implemented across all of the children's homes which has focused upon developing consistent practice and responses to the management of returns to Ofsted, developing a co-ordinated and consistent response to inspections of the children's homes when they occur.
- 4.9 The plan is also linking the work of the residential homes to the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Service in relation to the management of Sexual Exploitation and strengthened operational links with the Child Sexual Exploitation Manager. Furthermore the protocol around those children missing from care and missing has been reviewed and refreshed to incorporate the recommendations made by the Office of the Children's Commissioner; and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Runaway and Missing Children and the APPG for Looked after Children and Care Leavers. The protocol has been circulated for consultation across agencies with its progress being overseen through the work of the Derby Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB).
- 4.10 Within its programme of work for the following year, the DSCB will be undertaking a themed audit and review project of Children Sexually Exploited. Whilst there will be a focus upon Children's homes, it will also broaden the view to cover partner agencies responsibilities and understanding.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Andrew Bunyan – Strategic Director for Children and Young People Mark Barratt – Service Director for Specialist Services, Children and Young People Elene Constantinou, Head of Service, Children in Care and Regulated Services; Rod Jones, Deputy Head of Service, Children in Care and Regulated Services
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Rod Jones; telephone number; 01332 718820: e-mail rod.jones@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The average cost of a place in Derby's children's homes is £2,200 a week. This 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 CRB 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.

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 A strategic review of arrangements for commissioning placements has been completed and plans for a reorganisation of placement provision are under consideration. This will inform longer term planning around the provision of children's homes and is the subject of a topic review.