



Inspection, Monitoring and Development 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 twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection. Under the framework, judgements are made, outstanding; good; requires improvement or inadequate, on the overall progress and experiences of children and young people in reference to;
- How well children and young people are helped and protected
 - The impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers.
- 1.2 There are two other forms of inspection and monitoring. Firstly, through Regulation 44 visits as part of Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 which requires each home to be visited by an employee of the organisation not directly concerned with the conduct of the home and a report written detailing observations of the visit. Some visits are carried out by an independent visitor from outside of the Council. The rest are undertaken by children services managers 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. Secondly, through visits of Elected Members. Periodic visits to children's homes are made 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 are informed of actions taken as a result.
- 1.3 The recent changes to homes are summarised as;
1. **Home A** – Closed in May 2018 due to a health & safety issue with the building
 2. **Home B** – Now closed. Young people transferred to another Derby City Council Residential Children's Home
 3. **Home C** – Reopened after extensive refurbishment work.
 4. **Home D** – No changes to the building. Change of Manager.
 5. **Home E** – No changes to the building. Change of Manager.
 6. **Home F** – No changes to the building. Change of Manager.
 7. **Home G** – No changes to the building.
- 1.4 On 10 October 2018, Council Cabinet agreed proposals of a two phased approach to the reconfiguration of children's in-house residential services, those phases being the

establishment of a two hub approach and creation of a semi-independent pathway.

1.5 Children in Care Council Summary

Maintaining high quality standards in children's homes is very important to keep children and young people safe and make sure things like education or preparing for adulthood is a top priority. The law tells the council how we must do this. Ofsted, managers and councillors visit the homes to see that we are doing what we should be doing. They ask staff and young people their views and write a report with any actions needed to improve the homes. This report shows what we are doing and how well we are doing it.

We are always looking to improve our homes and make sure that those living a long way away can return to Derby. Recently, suggestions of how we might do this were put together in a report for councillors to approve based on what we know about the needs of Derby's children in care. This will mean changing some of the plans we had. We want to make sure that those children with lots of needs are able to live in Derby if they can and the children homes can meet their needs. We also want to make sure that young people have all the skills needed before they leave care and live on their own.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report and make recommendations as appropriate.

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 Ofsted Inspections

Since July 2017, there have been 11 visits undertaken by Ofsted. The dates and outcomes of inspections are as follows:

4.2

Home	Inspection Type	Date	Judgement
Home E	Full	4 & 5 September 2018	Requires Improvement to be Good
	Monitoring	11 July 2018	(no formal judgement given)
	Full	29 & 30 May 2018	Inadequate
	Full	18 & 19 April 2017	Good
Home B	Full	24 & 25 April 2018	Requires Improvement to be good
	Full	30 & 31 May 2017	Good
	Interim	4 January 2017	Sustained Effectiveness
	Full	14 June 2016	Good
Home G	Full	3 & 4 April 2018	Good
	Interim	12 February 2018	Declined in Effectiveness
	Full	21 & 22 August 2017	Good
	Interim	30 January 2017	Sustained Effectiveness
Home A	Interim	7 February 2017	Sustained Effectiveness
	Full	August 2016	Good
Home D	Full	10 & 11 April 2018	Requires Improvement to be Good
	Interim	10 October 2017	Sustained Effectiveness
	Full	12 & 13 June 2017	Requires Improvement to be Good
	Interim	16 January 2017	Sustained Effectiveness
Home F	Full	1 & 2 May 2018	Outstanding
	Full	17 July 2017	Good
	Interim	20 December 2016	Improved Effectiveness
	Full	21 July 2016	Good

4.3 Changes to Home C

There has been extensive refurbishment work undertaken on this home to take it from a 6 bedded home to a 5 bedded home, with a semi-independent flat. The home has been refurbished to a high specification, taking into consideration the needs to ensure that the fittings and fixtures are 'fit for purpose' and allow the young people and children to live in a safe and comfortable environment.

Each young person will and have had the opportunity to select colour schemes and furniture that complements the Home and themselves, enabling them to have choice and control within their home environment. The external grounds are 'grassed', with a communal area for sitting out in the summer months. The home 'sits' within a residential area, and as such, does not stand out as a Children's Residential Home.

4.4 There have been changes in the Management of some of the Residential Homes due to resignations/retirements.

4.4.1 Home F was judged as Outstanding on its last inspection by Ofsted. There has since been a change in Management at this Residential Home.

- 4.4.2 **Home E** was identified as inadequate and therefore was placed into compliance. There was an Action Plan put into place with set timescales for completion. These timescales were met, with an interim inspection taking place during July to ascertain that the compliance had been met and full re-inspection in September 2018 providing overall judgement of Requiring Improvement. There has since been a change of Management in this Residential Home.
- 4.5 **Elected Members Visits**
Due to the change in Administration, there has been no Member visits undertaken will be scheduled in Spring of 2019.
- 4.6 **Regulation 44 Visits**
The following recommendations were made as a result of the Regulation 44 visits, which have taken place over the last few months:
- 4.6.1 **Home D:** Educational work with two young people was raised as an issue, and the lack of sanctions. Also, the placements of these young people were also raised as a concern. However, there was a change, with one young person transitioning to an alternative provision. The Home has been doing well to support the young people, and to hold a placement. Improvements have been made to Behaviour Support Plans and Sanctions are firmly in place.
- 4.6.2 **Home E:** Concerns were raised by over a number of issues that were presenting at the visit, including damage being undertaken to the Home by the young people located on the site. In terms of the Return Interviews when a young person is reported as missing, this was identified as an area for improvement. Risk Assessments, Behaviour Management and Placement Plans were also raised. These areas have since been addressed and appropriate actions taken.
- 4.6.3 **Home F:** No major were issues identified. However there was a complaint raised by the young people relating to the movement of staff which had occurred due to a Home closure. This issue was addressed with the young people, with clear explanations given as to why staff were initially moved from one Home to another within a short space of time.
- 4.6.4 **Home G:** The Sensory Garden was raised as an issue. It was identified that there may have been support in place to transform this area, however to date this remains an issue as the organisation pulled out from the project. The Service Manager will be looking to take this action forward with the Home's Manager.
- 4.6.5 The actions taken in response to Regulation 44 visits are complimented by monthly in depth Regulation 45 monitoring by the Manager. Comprehensive trackers have since been put into place across the Children's Residential Homes, which will allow Senior Management to have an overview of all monitoring visits undertaken by Independent Regulation 44 Visitors and Ofsted and ensuring actions are completed to required timescales.

4.7 Reconfiguration

Consultation with relevant stakeholders was undertaken in August and September 2018 on establishing two phases for children's homes reconfiguration over the next twelve months.

Phase 1 seeks to develop a new model of internal delivery resulting in two distinct hubs being created that would provide up to twenty six beds collectively. Each hub to be designed to target different levels of need as per the strategic needs analysis. Hub 1, due the proximity of three homes on one site will develop a complex needs provision with accommodation of up to ten beds. Hub 2 will retain the existing mainstream and disabled needs provision with accommodation of up to sixteen beds across three homes, all at different locations across Derby.

Phase 2, will develop a pathway and access to a range of semi independence provision for those aged sixteen to eighteen years to better enable the development of independence skills required for leaving care. It is proposed to secure a number of small homes through working in partnership with Derby Homes. The range of properties will be targeted to those young people within existing children's homes to enable swifter move on from Hub 1 or 2 into semi-independence living. By doing this, it is anticipated that capacity will be released sooner than is the current practice which is to retain till 18 years. Feedback from Care Leavers over the past twelve months has supported the view that more needs to be done and earlier in preparing looked after children to live independently. Given the number of 14 and 15 year olds currently in situ (nine), the release of bed space will enable a return of those placed out of area.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 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
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sharon Green: 01332 642 740 - sharon.green@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The reconfiguration programme will result in a cost reduction of £200,000 from the staffing budgets of the current homes, primarily due to one home closure. Costs of circa £700,000 will also be avoided due to essential maintenance and upgrades requirement for the building planned over the next ten years. Returning children and young people to Derby will result in financial savings for the council.

Legal

- 2.1 Each home is 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 National Minimum Standards. All local authorities have a duty of care as a Corporate Parent and a responsibility to provide the best possible services and support to Looked After Children in their care.

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.
- There will be changes to the role and function of staffing across Hub 1 therefore an achieving change and consultation with staff will need to occur.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.

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 has been underway, 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.