

Report of the Corporate Parenting Sub Board

Visits to Children's Homes

SUMMARY

- 1.1 As part of fulfilling their role as Corporate Parents, Councillors make visits to Children's Homes on a regular basis.
- 1.2 This report sets out the timetable for these visits for the forthcoming year.
- 1.3 A protocol for visiting Children's Homes was agreed last year and sets out how the reports from Councillors will be monitored.
- 1.4 In addition to Councillor visits, all Children's Homes are subject to monitoring visits on behalf of the registered provider under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations. The Sub-Board is asked to consider how they wish to review these reports.
- 1.5 The Sub-Board is also asked to decide how it wishes to review and monitor progress against the Children's Homes Ofsted reports.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the report.
- 2.2 To determine how the Sub-Board wishes to review Regulation 33 reports.
- 2.3 The Sub-Board is also asked to decide how it wishes to review and monitor progress against the Children's Homes Ofsted reports.
- 2.4 To agree to amend the protocol for visits to Children's Homes to include the line 'Members attending visits receive the most recent Ofsted report with their visit information pack.'

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following the reconfiguration of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Board in December 2010 and the approval of the Protocol for these visits it was agreed that the visits would take place twice a year. The table in appendix 2 sets out the proposed timetable for this year's visits.
- 3.2 Visits to Moorfields and Bute Walk have already taken place.

- 3.3 Regulation 33 visits are a statutory requirement and are completed by an officer not directly involved in the running of the home. Reports are monitored by the Registered Person and by the Regulatory Inspector on behalf of Ofsted. It would assist the Corporate Parenting Sub-Board to monitor the well-being of children in residential care to receive a summary of these reports at regular intervals.
- 3.4 Ofsted carries out at least one full inspection and one interim inspection each year. It is suggested that the Sub-Board receives these regularly and that the protocol for visits is amended so that Members attending visits receive the most recent Ofsted with their visit information pack.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Mark Barratt – Director Specialist Services
Other(s)	Phil O'Brien, Statutory Scrutiny Officer Rod Jones, Lead Service Manager Regulated Services

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Background papers:	Member Visit to Children's Homes Protocol
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Timetable for Member Visits to Children's Homes

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 This report contributes to the following Council objectives:
- Feeling safe and being safe
 - Good quality services that meet local needs
 - Achieving their learning potential
 - An active cultural life
 - A strong community

- Good health and well-being
- A skilled and motivated workforce.