

Inspection and Monitoring of Children's Homes

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Corporate Parenting Committee with an overview of Derby City Council's Children Residential Homes internal and external inspections.
- 1.2 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 at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection.
- 1.3 *Under the framework, judgements are made on:*
 - Overall progress and experiences of children and young people
 - How well children and young people are helped and protected
 - Impact and effectiveness of leaders and Managers
- 1.4 They judge the home according to a four point scale:
 - **Outstanding**
 - **Good**
 - **Requires improvement**
 - **Inadequate**
- 1.5 **Regulation 44** of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 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. Some visits are carried out by an independent visitor from outside of the Council. The rest are done by Managers in the Children and Young People's Directorate, 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
- 1.6 **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.

After each visit members report on their observations and recommendations and members are informed of actions taken as a result.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the content of the report, as inspections are a key element of the regulatory function in relation to Children's Homes. Management visits are a statutory requirement.
- 2.2 To note the content of the report as a Corporate Parent, as visits are undertaken by elected Members as part of the Council's Corporate Parent duties.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 Children Residential Homes are inspected at regular intervals by independent Regulation 44 Inspectors, Ofsted and Members. The inspection reports provides the Service and the Homes Managers with information to support appropriate changes to be made that will enhance a young person experience whilst in our care.
- 3.2 Ofsted judgements are made with regard to what measurable progress has been evidenced towards children achieving their potential and are how they are helped to do so.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Overview of the Ofsted inspections that have taken place since April 2018 to 2019:
- 4.2 From April 2018, there have been 13 visits undertaken by Ofsted.
- 4.3 There have been no serious issues highlighted by the Ofsted inspections.
- 4.4 The Children Residential Homes are inspected at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection. Where a Home is judged to be 'inadequate', notification is issued to the Home with a timescale given to undertake the actions.

Home	Inspection Type	Date	Judgement
Home A	Full	2 July 2019	Good
	Interim	19 November 2018	Sustained Effectiveness
	Full	4 September 2018	Requires Improvement to be Good
	Monitoring visit	11 July 2018	No Judgement Given
	Full	29 May 2018	Inadequate
Home E	Full	14 May 2019	Good
	Full	3 April 2018	Good
Home D	Full	8 January 2019	Good
Home B	Full	16 July 2019	Good
	Interim	5 December 2018	Sustained Effectiveness
	Full	10 April 2018	Requires Improvement to be Good

Home C	Full	15 April 2019	Good
	Full	1 May 2018	Outstanding

Elected Members Visits:

5.1 Due to a change of Administration in May 2019, there have been no Member visits undertaken across the Children Homes. Training has been delivered to all Members to enable the visits to take place.

Regulation 44 Visits:

6.1 The following recommendations were made as a result of the Regulation 44 visits, which have taken place over the last few months, however it should be noted that there was a delay in some inspections being undertaken due to changes in Regulation 44 Visitors and recruitment issues with some inspections not taking place when required:

6.2 **Home A:** No major issues were identified. The Home appearance was highlighted as requiring a 'makeover'. The Manager has confirmed that the Home will be decorated shortly. The Placement Plan information records for some of the young people living within the Home, was raised as requiring updates with the next one to reflect the Home identity. This has since been completed.

6.3 **Home B:** No major issues were identified. The recording of information in relation to Safeguarding was raised. The Manager has reiterated to staff the need to record information accurately, whilst making it clear as to who has visited a young person and why.

6.4 **Home C:** Staffing levels were raised as an issue, however this is being addressed by the Service. The appearance, which related to a damaged door, was also raised as an issue however, this has now been repaired. There was no major issues identified during the visits that have taken place at this Home.

- 6.5 **Home D:** It was identified that the Home needed to ensure that a strategy was in place to provide young people with support when a Tutor is not able to provide home tuition. This has been an area of challenge for the Home, due to the young people not willing to participate, however strategies are now in place to ensure this is managed. Training issues were also identified in relation to recording on case files. The Manager is taking this forward and will ensure that all staff are clear on how information should be recorded. Where any issues arise, this will be managed on an individual basis. The Regulation 44 Visitor also noted that there was evidence that the young people are actively consulted about their wishes and feelings. No major issues were identified.
- 6.6 **Home E:** No major issues were raised. The recent inspection noted that young people seemed happy content in their home during their visit. There are a variety of rooms and activities for the young people to enjoy.
- 6.7 The actions taken in response to Regulation 44 visits are complimented by monthly in depth Regulation 45 monitoring by the Manager.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Young people and Children are consulted regularly, with a view to ascertaining their wishes and feelings. This is recorded in their Care Plans, Liquid Logic (LCS) recording and young people's log of meetings. All concerns are recorded and responded to.
- 5.2 Young people and Children are also encouraged to attend the Children in Care Council meetings. This allows them to make their views known about their Home and care.
- 5.3 Young people and Children also have independent advocacy support who act on their behalf, enabling them to raise concerns from someone who is not associated with the Home they live in.

Other options

- 6.1 None

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The average cost of a placement within a Derby's Children's Residential Home, compares favourably with similar placements in other local authorities and the independent sector.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Children's residential Homes are regulated by Ofsted and are required to comply with National Minimum Standards.

Other significant implications

- 9.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Andy Smith, Strategic Director Peoples Services	21.10.19

Background papers:
List of appendices: