

## Inspection and Monitoring 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 at least twice a year, receiving one full and one interim inspection.
- 1.2 Under the new 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.
- They judge the home according to a four point scale:
- Outstanding
  - Good
  - Requires improvement
  - Inadequate
- 1.3 **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 Peoples Services 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.
- 1.4 **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.

Visits to the Children's Homes took place during October and November 2017.

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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2.1 To note the content of report, inspection outcomes and work undertaken.

<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION</b>
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- 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

### Ofsted Inspections:

4.1 The dates and outcomes of inspections are as follows:

4.2

Home	Inspection Type	Date	Judgement
<b>The Willows</b>	Interim	8 December 2016	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	18 April 2017	Good
<b>Cricklewood</b>	Interim	4 January 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	30 & 31 May 2017	Good
<b>Shine</b>	Interim	30 January 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	21 & 22 August 2017	Good
<b>Bute Walk</b>	Interim	7 February 2017	Sustained effectiveness
	Full	25 & 26 July 2017	Good
<b>402 Sinfin Lane</b>	Interim	10 October 2017	Requires improvement
	Full	12 & 13 June 2017	Requires improvement
<b>Coronation Avenue</b>	Interim	20 December 2016	Improved effectiveness
	Full	17 July 2017	Good

### Please note:

Ofsted inspect Children's Homes that were judged **'Inadequate' or 'Requires improvement'** to be good at their last full inspection **at least twice** in each year-long inspection period (from 1 April to 31 March).

Ofsted carry out **at least 1** full inspection of Homes that were judged as **'Outstanding' or 'Good'** during a year-long inspection period. An initial risk assessment is undertaken for every children's home judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' at the start of the inspection year to inform an initial decision of whether these homes will be subject to a second inspection (an interim inspection) in addition to a full inspection.

- 4.3 12 visits have been undertaken by Ofsted.
- 4.4 402 Sinfin Lane was informed that it would require improvement at both the interim and full inspections. This related to two young people. Work is ongoing with the young people within this Home to increase their attendance and participation in their educational provision.
- 4.5 There have been no other serious issues highlighted by the Ofsted inspections.

#### **Elected Members Visits:**

- 5.1 Corporate Parenting training sessions were delivered to Derby City Councillors since the last Corporate Parenting Committee. Queensferry Gardens is still being refurbished, and due to re-open late March 2018. This Home has not been subject to inspection or Member visit this year due to the refurbishment.

3 Homes were visited in October, and reports received from the visiting Councillors.

- 5.2 The Willows Children's Home was visited on the 23 October 2017. The report outlined a number of areas that the Councillors required further information on, which has now been responded to. It was noted that they acknowledged that staff supported across 402 and the Willows when required.
- 5.3 Bute Walk was visited on the 18 October 2017. The report raised some concerns with regards to the internal and external appearance of the Home. Some of these issues have been addressed where able, with others pending.

Shine had a visit in 16 October 2017. The Councillors enquired as to replacement of some equipment and an update on the Sensory Garden, which the Manager of the Home is picking up on.

In addition, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Safeguarding has made an independent visit to 402 on the 13 November 2017.

#### **Regulation 44 Visits:**

- 6.1 Each home is visited unannounced by an independent officer every month. The following recommendations were made as a result of the Regulation 44 visits, which have taken place over the last period:
- 6.2 **The Willows:** Overall the reports were positive and acknowledged the work being undertaken by the staff. No major concerns were identified.

- 6.3 **402:** Overall, the reports were positive and reflected that the young people presented complex and challenging behaviours. However, the Home demonstrated that the staff team despite the difficult circumstances displayed a commitment to do their best to engage with, look after and help the residents. One main concern raised was with regards to the security of the external doors. This issue is currently being looked into.
- 6.4 **Bute Walk:** The reports were positive, and it was noted on the last visit that staff were continuing to try to engage the young people however, this was challenging. However, there has been a major concern raised with regards to disturbances both inside and outside of the Home. This issue is currently being addressed.
- 6.5 **Coronation Avenue:** All reports were positive, with a recommendation relating to the repair of the internal doors. This is still ongoing due to initial attempts at a repair being undertaken. Other options are being considered.
- 6.6 **Cricklewood:** Overall reports were positive. There were recommendations made in respect of ensuring that young people meetings take place and encouraging attendance at school/college. Work is ongoing in relation to these recommendations.
- 6.7 **Shine:** Overall reports highlighted a number of positives and children's needs were being met. The key recommendation related to ICT and to progress plans for ensuring consistent recording processes. This recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be developed.
- 6.8 The actions taken in response to Regulation 44 visits are complimented by in depth Regulation 45 monitoring by each Home Manager on a monthly basis and then monitored for assurance the Service Manager and Head of Service.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 7.1 None at this stage

This report has been approved by the following officers:

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Suanne Lim
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Sharon Green: 01332 642 740 - sharon.green@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Children's Residential Homes Checklist – Implications for Wider Vulnerabilities

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 The average cost of a place in Derby's children's homes 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 Vetting and Barring checks and expected to conform to high standards of conduct and performance.

**IT**

- 4.1 There are no IT implications.

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and appropriate monitoring put in place.

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 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**

- 7.1 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**

- 8.1 A five year programme of replacement and refurbishment is under way and has been the subject of separate reports to the Corporate Parenting Board.

**Risk Management**

- 9.1 The Business Continuity Plan contains an assessment of risks and control measures in place.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 10.1 The report contributes to the following Council objectives:  
Good quality services that meet local needs.