

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - 17 NOVEMBER 2014

Title of paper:	OFSTED INSPECTION RESULTS FOR INTERNAL RESIDENTIAL HOMES	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Helen Blackman, Director of Specialist Services	Wards affected: All
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Other colleagues who have provided input:	N/A	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	N/A	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
Cutting unemployment by a quarter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Cut crime and anti-social behaviour		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other City		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Your neighbourhood as clean as the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>
Help keep your energy bills down		<input type="checkbox"/>
Good access to public transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham has a good mix of housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham is a good place to do business, invest and create jobs		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nottingham offers a wide range of leisure activities, parks and sporting events		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support early intervention activities		<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver effective, value for money services to our citizens		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>Internal Residential Children's Homes are inspected by Ofsted as a minimum of twice per year. These inspections consist of a full inspection and an interim inspection to assess if there has been any progress since the full inspection. This is part of legislative requirements under National Minimum Standards (2000). The Inspection reports set out Ofsted's judgement about the quality of the provision provided.</p> <p>The Inspection judgments and what they mean: Outstanding: a service of exceptional quality that significantly exceeds minimum requirements Good: a service of high quality that exceeds minimum standards Adequate: a service that only meets minimum requirements Inadequate: a service that does not meet minimum requirements</p> <p>We have 7 internal Residential children's homes all of which are registered with Ofsted.</p> <p>Current inspection results for internal children's homes are as follows: 1 home is judged as Outstanding 2 homes are judged as Good with Outstanding Features 2 homes are judged as Good 2 homes are judged as Adequate</p> <p>As a service and local authority we aim to have all of our children's homes judged as Good or Outstanding. Work within the residential service management team continues to progress this aspiration.</p>		

Recommendation(s):	
1	The committee notes the ambition for all homes to achieve Good or Outstanding ofsted gradings by continuing to strive for excellence and ensuring that national minimum standards are met and exceeded. This will be achieved by ensuring homes are managed by a highly skilled, qualified and experienced Management team and Staff team.
2	The committee notes that Results of Reports are analysed and monitored by Service Manager and Registered Managers to identify trends and patterns to improve performance as well as to share good practice.

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Due to the nature of the provision it is imperative that the service is scrutinised independently to ensure it is delivering a Good quality provision as well as improving outcomes for Children In Care. Ofsted Inspectors, in their reports, make requirements and recommendations to improve practice ensuring that minimum standards are being adhered to, if not exceeded.
- 1.2 Since 2011 as a local authority we have moved a way from large institutional children's homes to small group homes. This has improved our provision for children and young people as well as outcomes.
- 1.3 Ofsted have identified recent performance issues such as:
- “Ensure **all** staff receives regular supervision” due to manager being off long term sick.
- “Ensure the young peoples guide contains telephone number and address of ofsted”.
- “Ensure that full work histories of staff from leaving school are checked again by any new manager in post”.
- “Ensure that information about children is recorded clearly and in a way which will be helpful to the child when they access their files now or in the future”.
- 1.4 Each Ofsted inspection report contains any requirements which need to be met by the Registered Manager and Provider with dates of when these need to be met by and evidence sent to ofsted.
- They also contain recommendations for good practice which are checked by ofsted during their interim inspections.
- Requirements have reduced significantly over the last few years.
- 1.5 The Ofsted reports continue to be very positive with Inspectors making the following observations from their recent inspections of the children's homes:
- “Young People continue to make good progress, particularly in their positive relationships with staff and managers. This means that they also feel very able to talk to and receive support from staff in relation to what's happening in their life. Young people's safety and welfare has a very high priority in the home. Staff are very good at ensuring that young people understand their own safety needs. When young people go missing the management team lead the subsequent work effectively. They strive to find the young people as soon as possible and work very well with other professionals such as the police. This is illustrated by professional's comments on the homes practice in this area which include “staff have been brilliant and they do more than is required”. A range of work also takes place to educate young people about the risks associated with being missing. For example, young people regularly engage with outside agencies that support and advise them on issues such as child sexual exploitation”.

“The children and young people’s living environment is warm, comfortable and homely. The rapport between staff, managers and children and young people observed during the inspection was warm, lively and supportive. Staff are committed, motivated and knowledgeable about the children and young people”.

“The dietary needs of young people are robustly identified and catered for”.

“Young people are very well supported with their behaviour. Staff are particularly good at working as a team to ensure boundaries are consistent. These boundaries work well to help the young people to progress with their socially acceptable behaviour

“Young people are fully involved in the running of the home”.

“Education arrangements are maintained and some young people go to school significantly more than they did before coming to the home. As a result, their education is enhanced and improved within a short space of time. The value of education is strongly promoted and this approach benefits young people’s attitude, attendance and attainment”.

“This is a good service that provides positive outcomes for young people”.

“Young people prepare well for moving out of the children’s home and to a more independent setting. One young person who recently moved out is extremely positive about the support he has received. He reported that “staff have taught me, speak out for me and encouraged me”. This demonstrates that young people receive the support they need to be independent in the future”.

“All young people attend education and are making good progress. Teaching professionals report that the fact that young people are settled and happy in the home has a “massive impact” on their education”.

“Staff training is well organised and along with mandatory training such as behaviour management, health and safety and first aid, there is training over and above the standards”.

- 1.6 Children and young people on the whole continue to give very positive feedback to ofsted about the care they receive in the homes.
Any negative comments made by children or young people to the inspectors are looked into straight away and issues are addressed to further improve the service.
- 1.7 It is recognised by ofsted that a lot of hard work by the managers and staff goes into ensuring that the children and young people in our homes attend school or an alternative education provision. This impacts on children and young people being involved in positive activities and reduces any involvement in criminal activity or anti-social behaviour.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Residential services since April 2011 have been re-configured into a Small Group Homes Model which is an umbrella term. The specifics are set out below:
- 2.2 There are now 10 settled beds in 4 Children’s Homes across the city, 7 emergency beds across 2 homes in the Bestwood area that take children and young people on a short term basis and an

11 bedded short breaks service for children and young people with complex disabilities in the Meadows. All these homes are Registered with ofsted and are inspected on a regular basis.

- 2.3 The number of internal Residential homes in Nottingham City has increased recently by a further 4 beds for children with complex disabilities.
- 2.4 Ofsted Inspections are an important legislative requirement that serve to quality assure the service provision and ensure that Safeguarding measures for Children in Care are being adhered to. Ofsted have the legislative authority to close any homes that are not demonstrating that they are keeping children and young people safe
- 2.5 The Department For Education is in the process of consulting over new regulations with regards to children's homes that will be brought out in the near future and will be in force from April 2015. Ofsted will measure all children's homes across the country against these new regulations which will have high expectations and aspirations for our children in care.
As a local authority we welcome any new regulations to further improve the provision of our internal children's homes.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None required.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 The re-configuration of Children's Residential continues to be cost effective for the City Council. The increase in internal beds has reduced the need for external beds and costs are currently in line or lower than external provision. Also the increase in internal beds prevents some young people from being placed outside of the city as it is good practice wherever possible to keep children and young people near their family, friends, school and college. This further impacts in terms of gaining improved ofsted gradings.

Polly Toynbee, wrote in her article for the he Guardian, published Tuesday 13 May 2014:
"In quality, Ofsted records slightly better ratings for local authority-run homes compared with private (the non-profit sector is very small), but the grim fact is that a third of all homes across all sectors are only rated "adequate",

As a service we are ambitious to achieve **Good** and **Outstanding** for the remaining two of our homes that have been judged as adequate.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 Ofsted Inspection reports include legislative requirements (amended to meet new Minimum Standards, April 2011)
- 5.2 Record and capture information in relation to young peoples offending and anti-social behaviours.
- 5.3 They also report as to whether young peoples cultural and diversity needs are being met within their identified Care Plan

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions) **Not needed**

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in the EIA.

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Polly Toynbee's article in the Guardian, published Tuesday 13 May 2014: