

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CHILDREN HOME'S

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To inform Children's Services Cabinet Member of the outcomes of the inspections of three of the Children's Homes in North Lincolnshire completed between August 2008 and January 2009.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 All Children's Homes are subject to annual inspections carried out by OfSTED inspectors. Each home has two inspections each year; they consist of a full-announced inspection and an unannounced inspection. The unannounced inspection only focuses on any actions from previous inspections, or a random selection of outcomes covered in the full inspections.
- 2.2 The inspections are carried out under the statutory responsibilities given by the Care Standards Act 2000, and against the Outcomes for Children set within the Children Act 2004 and National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes.
- 2.3 Inspectors gather evidence from a variety of sources, including a range of relevant professionals, children and staff within the homes and through the scrutiny of relevant documentation.
- 2.4 The inspection reports give an overall judgment on the 'Every Child Matters' outcome areas (Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Achieve Economic Well Being and Make a Positive Contribution) and that of Organisation.
- 2.6 The judgments are categorised under four criteria:
 - **Outstanding:** this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
 - **Good:** this aspect of the provision is strong
 - **Satisfactory:** this aspect of the provision is sound
 - **Inadequate:** this aspect of the service provision is not good enough
- 2.7 Inspectors can make judgments as to whether requirements or recommendations are needed. A requirement is a mandatory action. A recommendation is a suggestion to improve current practice.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Between August 2008 and January 2009, three of the North Lincolnshire Children's Homes were inspected by OfSTED. Two of the homes had full inspections and the other had an unannounced inspection. The judgements are recorded below:

Outcome	A Home (G) (Full Inspection)	A Home (F) (Unannounced Inspection)	A Home (C) (Full Inspection)
Overall Judgment	Good	Good	Good
Be Healthy	Outstanding	Not judged	Outstanding
Stay Safe	Good	Good	Good
Enjoy and Achieve	Outstanding	Not judged	Outstanding
Make a Positive Contribution	Outstanding	Not judged	Outstanding
Economic Well-being	Good	Not judged	Good
Organisation	Outstanding	Not judged	Good

3.2 Areas highlighted as good practice included:

A Home (G)

Young people's views are valued and there are opportunities for them to influence their day-to-day lives. Young people are well supported to make a successful transition to adulthood.

A Home (F)

Privacy is well promoted and safeguarded. Good child protection procedures and practice safeguards the welfare of young people. Behaviour management is good. The young people's physical safety is well protected and promoted.

A Home (C)

Education and leisure needs are very well met and the home works closely with parents and other services to meet the range of young people's needs. Care planning is good and placement plans are very well recorded and reviewed.

3.3 There was one requirement across all the homes. Home G was required to ensure that a copy of staff references were held in the home as well as the HR file. This was actioned whilst the inspector was at the home during the inspection.

3.4 The only two recommendations were a) to make minor changes to how meal planning is recorded; and b) make a minor update to the Statement of Purpose.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 These Inspections are final. Actions were completed immediately in relation to the requirements and recommendations. The ongoing practice in the homes continues to be monitored and reviewed through the Children in Care Performance Management Meetings held within Children, Strategy and Partnerships.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial - None

5.2 Staffing - None

5.3 Property - None

5.4 IT - None

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 – CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Each home completes a Statement of Purpose which has to ensure it takes consideration of the child's individual needs.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Observation of the children in the homes and how they relate to their carers plays an important role in the inspection process. The young people spoken to during the inspectors visit said that – as in previous inspections - they felt safe in their home, they know how to complain should they need to and bullying was not a concerns in the homes.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Children's Services Cabinet Member acknowledges the outcomes of these Inspections.

SERVICE DIRECTOR CHILDREN, STARTEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

OfSTED Inspection Reports on the Children's Homes in North Lincolnshire – August 2008
– January 2009