

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

## ANNUAL INSPECTION 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 the four Children Home's in North Lincolnshire completed between September 2007 and February 2008.

### 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The inspections of the Children's Homes were carried out by Ofsted inspectors and were the second series of annual inspections they have undertaken since taking over the role from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).
- 2.2 The inspections were 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 The inspectors gathered 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. However, Achieve Economic Well Being was not judged within these inspections.
- 2.6 The judgments are categorised under four criteria:
  - **Outstanding:** this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally 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/recommendations are needed. A requirement is a mandatory action. A recommendation is a suggestion to improve current practice. Only one home had a required action.

### 3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The overall judgments:

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>A Home (G)</b>	<b>A Home (P)</b>	<b>A Home (F)</b>	<b>A Home (C)</b>
Overall Judgment	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	Outstanding
Be Healthy	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	Good
Stay Safe	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	Outstanding
Enjoy and Achieve	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	Outstanding
Make a Positive Contribution	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	Outstanding
Economic Well-being	Not judged	Not judged	Not judged	Not judged
Organisation	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good	Good

3.2 Areas highlighted as good practice included:

#### A Home (G)

The manager and staff have well developed monitoring systems including feedback from young people. This monitoring is used to constantly try and improve the service and outcomes for young people. Comments from young people included "I feel really safe at the home".

#### A Home (F)

Staff liaise well with schools and parents helping to promote educational achievements for young people. Young people feel safe, do not get bullied and feel that staff care about them.

#### A Home (C)

There are excellent partnership arrangements between parents, staff at the home, schools and other helping agencies. This helps to provide very good continuity of care for children and young people providing them with excellent outcomes.

A Home (P)

Young people living at the home benefit from having their health, welfare and safety promoted and protected. This is a well managed home where young people's views are listened to and acted on. Educational achievements are acted on and here are excellent arrangements with staff.

- 3.3 There were two requirements, one to review the use of financial sanctions, the second to have health plans on each child's file.
- 3.4 There were only two recommendations to further improve practice in the homes, both relating to minor improvements in procedures in specific homes.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 These inspections are final. Action plans have been put in place to pick up the requirements and recommendations. These plans continue 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 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 Key messages from the children who met with inspectors were that they feel safe in their home, know how to complain should they need to and feel that bullying was not an issue in their home. Observation of the children in the homes and their interactions with their carers is a central part of inspection process.

#### **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That the Children's Services Cabinet Member welcomes of the outcomes of these inspections.

SERVICE DIRECTOR CHILDREN, STRATEGY 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 – Sept 2007 – Feb 2008