

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

OFSTED INTERIM INSPECTIONS OF NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CHILDREN HOMES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To inform cabinet member of the outcome of interim Ofsted inspections of three North Lincolnshire children's homes; Poplar Drive, The Cygnets and The Grove

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 All Children's Homes are subject to annual inspections carried out by Ofsted inspectors. Ofsted revised their Children's Home Inspection processes and a new inspection framework was implemented in April 2011. Each home now has an annual 'Full' inspection and also an 'Interim' inspection which monitors progress since the full inspection. Both are unannounced inspections.

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. Inspectors prioritise the gathering of views from children as a primary focus of the inspection.

2.5 The interim inspection focuses on progress in improving quality of care and outcomes for children and young people since the most recent full inspection. This includes consideration of progress made in addressing any requirements or recommendations made at the previous inspection. The judgment is made on a three-point scale:

- good progress
- satisfactory progress
- inadequate progress

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The 3 homes were inspected between the 19th and 24th January 2012. All the homes were judged to be making 'Good Progress'. The inspectors reported that the homes had carried out any recommendations and requirements made during their full inspections and all of these were now "fully met". There was only one new requirement made which was to forward the Regulation 34 Report completed for the Cygnets to Ofsted, this has been actioned.

3.2 Poplar Drive:
The inspector stated that the home had "worked hard in meeting all the requirements and recommendations made at the last inspection" and commented positively on the outcomes and care of the young people who confirmed they were well looked after.

- 3.3 The Cygnets:
The inspector stated that " A continued strength is the excellent liaison between health, education and the home" also that "Parents are positive about the care and say staff value and respect their children.....Young people benefit from excellent support from staff during their visits".
- 3.4 The Grove:
The inspector stated that the home continued to provide a "good standard of care" and that "young people confirm they are supported by staff and consider that they are well looked after". Also that young people are "supported to gain the necessary skills to make a successful transition to adulthood"

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 These inspections are final. They confirm that the Ofsted inspectors are satisfied that all requirements and recommendations for further improvements that were made at the full inspections have been fully actioned and completed. The one new recommendation has been actioned. The ongoing practice in the homes continues to be monitored and reviewed through Regulatory visits to the homes, the Children's Homes' 'Fit Managers' meetings and Corporate Parenting visits to the homes by elected members.

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

- 5.1 There are no new resource implications from the interim inspections.

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

- 6.1 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, also revised April 2011.
- 6.2 Each home completes a Statement of Purpose that ensures it takes consideration of the child's individual needs and national standards for effective practice.

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 by the inspectors said that – as in previous inspections - they feel safe in the home, are happy with the care they receive and are able to express their views and any concerns.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Children and Adult Services Cabinet Member notes the outcome of the latest - interim - inspections of the children's homes.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Ofsted Interim Inspection Reports on Poplar Drive, The Grove and The Cygnets undertaken during January 2012