

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES CABINET MEMBER**

## **OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CHILDREN'S HOMES**

### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1. To inform the Cabinet Member of the outcomes of the inspections of all the North Lincolnshire Children's Homes completed between July and September 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 'key' inspection which may be announced or unannounced, and a 'random' unannounced inspection which focuses on any actions from previous inspections, or a random selection of outcomes covered in the full inspections with a particular focus on safeguarding.
- 2.2 During this round of inspections, three of the homes received key inspections and one of the homes received a random inspection. All the inspections were unannounced.
- 2.3 Previous reports to the Cabinet Member have detailed the outcomes of inspections up to February 2009.
- 2.4 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. Consultation is currently underway to revise these standards.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 The full 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. The

unannounced inspections focus on any previous requirements and on the Every Child Matters outcome area of 'Stay Safe'.

2.7 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

2.8 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 Children's Home 'A' was inspected on the 20 July 2009. The overall rating was good.

#### **Summary**

This was a key inspection. The inspector found it a "good service with some outstanding features". Particular praise was given to the outcome areas of Be Healthy, Enjoy and Achieve and Make a Positive Contribution. The inspector stated that care planning is good and placement plans are very well recorded and reviewed. The home is well managed and staff are trained, experienced and competent. The inspector also commented on good approaches to promoting equality and diversity.

There were no requirements.

There was one recommendation which was to review the format of annual monitoring reports. This is currently being actioned.

3.2 Children's Home 'B' was inspected on the 6 August 2009. The overall rating was good.

#### **Summary**

This was a random inspection and focused on the ECM outcome area 'Stay Safe'. The inspector found it a "good service with some outstanding features". The inspector stated that very good policies and practices promote and protect young people's welfare. Note was made of the homes efforts to ensure young people's privacy is protected and behaviour management and

record keeping is good. Staff are trained and checked appropriately.

There were no requirements or recommendations.

- 3.3 Children's Home 'C' was inspected on the 18 September 2009. The overall rating was good.

### **Summary**

This was a key inspection. The inspector made particular note of the staff being 'child-centred' in their approach and that young people have many opportunities to discuss their views and are clearly listened to, they gave positive comments about the care they received. There were, however some shortfalls noted in the recording of information in appropriate formats.

There were three requirements, these were to update information on the home and ensure telephone numbers and notification forms are correctly recorded.

All three requirements have been completed.

There were two recommendations; these were regarding ensuring records are fully up-to-date and accurate.

The two recommendations have been completed.

- 3.4 Children's Home 'D' was inspected on the 24 September 2009. The overall rating was good.

### **Summary**

This was a key inspection. The inspectors found it a "good service with some outstanding features". The inspector made particular note of how young people contribute positively to the running of the home and give their views. Young people said they feel safe in the home and the inspector felt that the environment is safely managed and recruitment practices are good.

There were no requirements.

There were four recommendations; these were regarding procedural issues in recording and updating records, also that a new system is developed for young people's use of the telephone.

Three of the recommendations have been completed; there is an action plan in place for young people's use of the telephone.

### **Summary of the inspection findings:**

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

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

4.1 These Inspections are final. The requirements and recommendations have 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 Children in Care Performance Management Meetings.

#### **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 by the inspectors said that – as in previous inspections - they feel safe in the homes and are able to express their views and any concerns.

**8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

OfSTED Inspection Reports on the Children's Homes in North Lincolnshire – July 2009 – September 2009