

13 January 2014**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****ROTA VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES: OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2013****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the outcome of six-monthly rota visits to Nottinghamshire County Council's children's homes that took place in October and November 2013.

Information and Advice

2. **Lyndene** – a report is not yet available on the visit to this home.
3. **Caudwell House** was visited on 17 October 2013 by Councillor Boyd Elliot. This visit was very positive, where Councillor Boyd noted that it was obvious to see that the children are made to feel as close to a home environment as possible. The home was described as very clean and welcoming with personalised bedrooms and he noted that there are definite cases where people are being helped to move on to semi-independence. Each child has a detailed care plan depending on the individual's capability, giving the chance to be independent. Children also take part in their reviews and all aspects of their lives at Caudwell. Councillor Boyd's recommendations of encouraging more information events and coffee mornings to lead to more awareness of the home, and encouragement of fund raising, parents' ideas and feedback forums are being addressed by the management team at the home, and embedded in their development plan for 2014.
4. **Minster View** was visited on 24 October, 2013 by Councillor Boyd Elliot. As in the last rota visit, the internal condition of the home was described as being maintained to a very high level. Young people's care plans and risk assessments keep them safe, and there was evidence that all the young people's health requirements are met. Councillor Elliot went on to note that due to the levels of dependency exhibited by many of the children, their movement to semi independence may be limited, but it is still supported and most definitely identified in all cases. Councillor Elliot's recommendation was more visits by himself or other councillors only to build up a sound relationship with the house, noting that the home should be extremely proud of its amazing efforts.
5. **Oakhurst** was visited by Councillors Colleen Harwood and Alan Bell on 15 October 2013. This was a very positive visit, where it was recorded that the home was in a lovely and welcoming condition and is well maintained. Support is given to the young people around staying safe on a one to one basis, with the staff having access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for consultation. Recommendations were

that the downstairs bathroom needs upgrading and the WiFi needs upgrading for the young people. The internet problem is being progressed.

6. **West View** was visited on 5 November 2013 by Councillor Philip Owen. He noted that staff were very helpful and enthusiastic, despite some challenging behaviours being presented by one of the young people in the home at the time of the visit. Councillor Owen noted that there are areas of the home that are requiring some attention and repair, and that the homes signage did not have NCC identified on it. Recommendations contained in the body of the report included noting that the issue of the Saniflo toilet identified in previous rota visits was still an issue, and that consideration should be given to delegate a proportion of the home's budget to the handyperson to improve the speed of repairs/decoration and be more cost effective. The recommendations for the improved signage (any without NCC logo), decoration and internal repairs are being addressed.
7. **The Big House** was visited by Councillor Jacky Williams on 7 November 2013. Councillor Williams recorded that the home is in a poor state of repair and is not fit for purpose, noting that the new build is being progressed. Councillor Williams went on to note that maintaining and managing safe behaviour is key to the service provided, and that the staff have a good knowledge and understanding of their client group. Each young person has a key worker and there is a strong focus on individualised care. There were no recommendations.
8. **Clayfields House** was visited on 8th October by Councillor Jacky Williams. Councillor Williams recorded a very positive visit, noting that the centre is awaiting a refurbishment programme and would like to revisit it once this has been completed. She noted that visits by family and friends are positively encouraged, and was shown correspondence relating to a very positive transition of one young person. Staff were extremely helpful and positive, and Councillor Williams was very impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment, noting staff have detailed knowledge of young people through their care plans. Aside from planning to re-visit, there were no other recommendations.
9. **Clayfields House** was also visited on 15 October by Councillor Liz Plant. This was an extremely positive visit, with the grounds described as being well looked after with the site being maintained to a high standard. Young people's health needs are taken very seriously and the unit offers a wide range of interventions to support young people in addressing their offending and high risk behaviours. She noted that staff were committed and rightly proud of the unit's achievements. Councillor Plant recorded that as she did not have time to meet with the young people on her visit she would like to re-visit the unit in the near future. There were no recommendations.

Other Options Considered

10. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the outcome of the six-monthly rota visits to Nottinghamshire County Council's children's homes that took place in October and November 2013 be noted

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Constitutional Comments

13. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (KLA 16/12/13)

14. There are no financial comments arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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