

16 April 2024**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND
RESOURCES****INSPECTION GRADINGS OF 'EXCLUSIVE USE' CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL
HOMES – MARCH 2024****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with an update on the current performance of homes that are operated by Homes2Inspire for the exclusive use of Nottinghamshire children in care.

Information

2. The vast majority of children's residential home placements are commissioned from the external market, i.e. in homes operated and managed by companies from the private and voluntary sector. Most providers are privately owned companies though there are some providers that are linked to the voluntary sector in some way. The largest of these voluntary sector providers is Homes2Inspire which is part of the national charity Shaw Trust and whose Chief Executive Officer is a former child in care.
3. The Council has a long and well-established partnership with Homes2Inspire that is underpinned by a Block Contract which commenced in 2015 and took the form of the Council 'block booking' and agreeing to pay for 12 beds across the Homes2Inspire residential home estate. This worked very successfully for both parties and a more expansive partnership-based arrangement has evolved over the past eight years, always underpinned by the provisions within the Block Contract for the care of Nottinghamshire children who live at homes operated and managed by Homes2Inspire.
4. As well as increasing the number of young people living in homes operated by Homes2Inspire, there have been two significant expansions in the scope of the partnership during the past eight years. The first was the development of 'exclusive use' homes, i.e. locally-based homes owned and operated by Homes2Inspire for the exclusive use of Nottinghamshire children in care. The second followed on from the Council's decision in 2020 to expand its own children's residential home estate and led to the development of 'hybrid homes' whereby the property is owned by the Council but the home is operated by Homes2Inspire via the same Block Contract for the care provision, together with an appropriate lease that allows it to set up, operate, manage and maintain the building as a children's residential home on behalf of the Council. The Council has latterly opened three

new 'hybrid homes' in conjunction with Homes2Inspire and is currently searching for a further home to purchase.

5. As a consequence of the above developments, Homes2Inspire currently owns and/or operates more children's homes in the local area, and accommodates more children in care, than the Council itself does at the homes that it wholly owns and operates. The Council/ Homes2Inspire partnership encompasses 11 homes of varying size, location and capacity that can collectively accommodate up to 35 Nottinghamshire children in care.
6. It is this set of homes and their current level of performance, as judged by their most recent Ofsted inspection outcome, that is the focus of this report. The table below provides a list of these homes, identifying which party owns which property and the potential capacity of each, i.e. the maximum number of children for which each home is registered with Ofsted.

Name	Location	Max beds
Meadow View House	Worksop	5
Layton House	Mansfield	5
Holly House	Chesterfield	5
Evans House	West Bridgford	3
Braidley House	Derby	3
Stirling House	Newark	2
Newbury House	Newark	2
Farrimond House	Worksop	2
Sudbury House *	Huthwaite	2
School House *	Sutton-in-Ashfield	2
Lantern House*	Sutton-in-Ashfield	2
<i>Virtual beds</i>	Nottingham / various	2
TOTAL		35

** = property owned by the Council*

7. The table below provides the outcome and a very brief summary from Ofsted's most recent inspection visit to each of the homes.

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
Meadow View House	Good December 2022 Latest inspection February 2024 awaiting report to be published	Children make good progress in crucial areas of their lives. Staff understand children's needs from when they first move to the home. Managers and staff celebrate the children's progress and achievements, no matter what these may be. Memories are captured through memory books that children take with them when they leave the home. This supports them to feel cared for and loved.
Layton House	Good January 2024	The overall experience and progress of children and young people is good, with outstanding effectiveness of leaders and managers. The manager and staff team have worked tirelessly to significantly improve the home since the last full inspection. All children have positive relationships with staff and say they are happy. All children are attending school and

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
		show a positive attitude towards learning. There has been a positive shift in children's behaviours and they are engaging in fewer risky activities. Children say that they feel safe and there has been a significant reduction in missing-from-home episodes. The manager has a strong commitment to maintaining an excellent standard of care, she leads by example and believes that the children cared for at the home deserve the very best.
Holly House	Good November 2023	This home has moved from Requires Improvement (August 2022) to Good at the latest inspection. Children are welcomed in a planned and sensitive way and are equally well supported when moving out. When possible, the manager and staff continue to offer emotional support and care after children have moved. The staff team shows a genuine commitment towards supporting children and the children have positive relationships with staff. Children attend education daily and there is a positive environment which encourages children to achieve and make academic progress. The environment is homely and welcoming, and staff ensure that children develop a sense of belonging and stability.
Evans House	Outstanding December 2023	Children make exceptional progress in all areas of their development. Staff provide children with care that creates positive memories and experiences. The manager and deputy manager inspire a nurturing team of staff who keep children at the centre of everything they do. Children form trusted relationships with staff and benefit from high-quality care and support. Children's risks are identified and well understood by staff, and they manage significant incidents very well. Staff use distraction techniques and emotional reassurance to support children who are struggling to manage their feelings and emotions. The manager and staff are completely invested in children meeting their full potential and speak proudly of their achievements.
Braidley House	Requires Improvement Latest inspection March 2024 – awaiting report to be published	Children are generally happy and have positive relationships with staff. The atmosphere in the home is relaxed, warm and friendly. One child said, 'The staff are lovely. They are always there if I need to speak to them.' Children make small but significant steps towards progress in the 12 weeks they are at the home. However, their progress can sometimes fluctuate. Staff persevere in building very positive relationships and providing support to children.
Stirling House	Good November 2023	Children benefit from good day-to-day care, they have good, structured routines. Staff show children lots of nurture and care. Both children have made educational progress and staff

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
		are proud of children's achievements. Health needs are met well by staff. Staff have a good understanding of children's self-harming behaviours and are able to recognise changes in mood and when they may be struggling.
Newbury House	Good August 2022 Latest inspection March 2024 – awaiting report to be published	The previous report highlighted that the manager and the staff team's commitment and dedication to children mean that children experience stability and security. For some, this is the first time they have experienced these in their lives. Because of the high levels of encouragement and support provided by the staff team, children engage in a range of enriching and enjoyable activities. Praise and celebration of achievements help children to feel good about themselves. This is resulting in improved levels of confidence and self-esteem.
Farrimond House	Outstanding March 2023	The quality of care and support provided to the children by the manager and staff is outstanding. Children live in a warm, loving home with a strong family feel. Staff make every effort to ensure that each child feels comfortable, showing great warmth and affection toward the children. Children build trusting and secure relationships with staff and have developed a sense of permanence and belonging. Staff support children to work to their goals, developing their independence and engaging in new experiences. Children are supported to feel and be safe. Multi-agency working is excellent which ensures that strategies to reduce risk are highly effective.
Sudbury House	Good August 2022	There was one child in the home at the time of this inspection. Staff have clear and shared objectives to support the child to achieve their full potential. They know the child very well, have established positive relationships with them, and have a genuine sense of commitment and loyalty towards them. The child is encouraged to develop their independence skills and has learned and developed new skills which have enhanced their confidence and self-esteem. The environment is that of a family home. This supports the progress and experience of the child.
School House	Good March 2023	There was one child in this home at the time of this inspection, who is making very good progress from their starting point, sees the house as their home and has developed a sense of belonging. The child has some very good relationships with staff and the home is a happy place. There is a comprehensive risk management plan in place which includes behaviour management strategies. The child feels safe in this home.

Home	Ofsted rating:	Inspection Summary
Lantern House	Ungraded	This is a new home that has two young people placed in it, Ofsted had planned to visit to complete the registration on 9 February 2024, but unfortunately the visit was cancelled by Ofsted. The home is awaiting registration.

Other Options Considered

8. To not update the Panel on the current inspection activity in relation to the portfolio of children's homes: this option is rejected as knowledge of inspection activity forms an important part of the Panel's remit in assisting the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties and acting as an effective corporate parent.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The report provides an opportunity for the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider any further actions arising from the information contained within the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Panel notes the content of this report regarding the current performance of homes that are operated by Homes2Inspire for the exclusive use of Nottinghamshire children in care and considers whether there are any further actions it requires.

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Constitutional Comments (KK 28/03/24)

12. The Corporate Parenting Panel is a panel to assist the Council in fulfilling its legal corporate parenting duties to ensure the Council and partner agencies act as effective corporate parents. The proposal in the report is therefore within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Financial Comments (CDS 27/03/24)

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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