

9 January 2024**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES****ELECTED MEMBER VISITS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S
RESIDENTIAL HOMES****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides information on the outcome of visits by Members to Nottinghamshire children's residential homes.

Information

2. The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Panel state that "Members will be expected to lead regular visits to care settings in line with local guidance accompanying as appropriate other Elected Members beyond membership of this Panel. Guidance and training will be made available".
3. Members who have made visits have received training to support their approach to the visits and engagement with young people in the homes. Written guidance on visits and providing feedback to the Panel were made available.
4. Visits have been made to The Big House and Caudwell House and their feedback is detailed below.

The Big House on 12 October 2023

5. Councillor Sinead Anderson and Councillor Anne Callaghan visited The Big House on 12 October 2023 at 4pm and the following represents their observations during the visit.
6. The staff were well informed and knowledgeable about the children's needs and knew exactly the provision that each child required. There was discussion about care and management and staff spoke about the See Saw System they use to record data.
7. Councillors were shown around the premises, which were well maintained and very inviting, and saw children having dinner and staff interacting with them.
8. The children were non-verbal, so Councillors observed the interactions between the staff and children as well as a parent who was visiting with their child as part of the preparation

for overnight stays. The children do have phones with symbols in order to communicate. The interactions led Councillors to believe that the children were happy and well cared in their setting.

9. The care home can only be accessed by staff/authorised visitors and all visitors were signed in and out of the facility. The children had identified safe spaces to use if they required time away from other young people or staff. It was felt that the children were safe.
10. All children were in wheelchairs and all the facilities within the care home were well adapted and the bathrooms had hoists and other facilities to meet the needs of the children using them. The bedrooms were also secure, with alarms on the corridors in case children came out of their bedrooms in the night, so staff were then aware of their movements. The bedding and decoration of each room was catered to the likes of each child.
11. The children's key workers go into the schools they attend to share and receive information regarding progress or any identified difficulties they are dealing with.
12. The visit was very pleasant, staff were warm and welcoming and clearly knew a great deal about the children that they were caring for. A parent spoke to the Councillors to say that their child was moving on due to their age and how they were going to miss the staff and amazing support they had received during their time at the home.
13. There were no concerns at the time of this visit.

Caudwell House on 23 October 2023

14. Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan and Councillor Sam Smith visited Caudwell House on 23 October 2023 at 2pm and the following represents their observations during the visit.
15. The staff gave their time to fully explain the day to day activities and introduced the Councillors to the residents in a helpful manner during a typical day. The Councillors engaged with residents with helpful assistance from staff members and were left with a strong impression that the residents were very happy; they did not have one-to-one conversations with residents.
16. The visit was extremely positive and there was obvious dedicated commitment by all the staff and an environment of pleasant and professional teamwork. Residents were felt to be in extremely safe hands with a very professional, well-motivated team.
17. Councillor Smith noted minor niggles on some building issues and perceived over the top Health & Safety practice on a couple of items.
18. There were no concerns at the time of this visit.

Other Options Considered

19. To not bring this report to the Panel: this option is discounted because this report provides information that 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

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. 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

22. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Corporate Parenting Panel considers whether there is any feedback that it wishes to give and any actions that it recommends in relation to the information contained in the report.

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Constitutional Comments (SF 13/12/23)

23. The recommendation in this report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel (Constitution Section 7 Part 2 Terms of Reference).

Financial Comments (CDS 13/12/23)

24. There are no financial implications directly 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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