

16 January 2017**Agenda Item: 08****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****ROTA VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES: AUTUMN 2016****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 Autumn 2016. Recommendations are made by Councillors when they visit and officers act on any recommendations that are made.

Information and Advice

2. **Lyndene** – Councillor John Allin visited Lyndene on 13th October and a report is awaited.
3. **Caudwell House** was visited on 28th September by Councillor Boyd Elliott, who noted that every opportunity is given for each child to maximise their experiences under the care of the home. During the visit Councillor Elliott noted that the home was clean, and welcoming. There was one recommendation made relating to the costs of the night time monitoring system required, and this has now been progressed.
4. **Minster View** was visited by Councillor Boyd Elliott on 28th September. He noted that each child has an independent care plan, with procedures in place to ensure each young person is safe and supported. He noted that carers form extremely positive relationships with the young people, and that the home's recent Ofsted grading as Outstanding should be welcomed. There was one recommendation relating to the concerns about referrals to Minster View being limited. This is being addressed by Vonny Senogles Children's Service Manager, with the Manager of the home and the Service Manager for the Children's Disability Service.
5. **Oakhurst** – Councillor Colleen Harwood has been unable to visit Oakhurst for this period.
6. **West View** was visited on 10th October by Councillor Philip Owen who noted the downstairs areas look inviting and in good order, with the new furnishings chosen by the young people complementing the overall décor. During the visit Councillor Owen was able to talk to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) worker who was in the home at the time of his visit. There was one recommendation made to review the emergency admission procedures, which related to the home being instructed to take an emergency placement over and above the home's registration. This review of procedures has now taken place.

7. **The Big House** was visited by Councillor Jacky Williams on 26th October. Councillor Williams reported that the home remains very warm and inviting, with robust care plans in place for each young person. Councillor Williams recorded that the learning from a significant incident where several members of staff had been injured due to one young person's behaviours, has informed behaviour management plans and health and safety procedures. Councillor Williams made one recommendation of sharing Regulation 44 reports between rota visits, and this has been actioned.
8. **Clayfields House** was visited on 16th November by Councillor Jacky Williams, who recorded the progress status of the plans for the rebuilding of one of the units, and the progress made with updating local residents on the work, and ensuring deliveries, where possible, are made before 8am to avoid local disruption. Councillor Williams recorded recognition that the vast majority of the residents in the home have multiple mental ill health issues, which are being addressed by the CAMHS team, complemented by a well trained staff team. Following the admission of a deaf young person to Clayfields House, Councillor Williams recorded that ensuring he has signing support should be a priority, and this is being addressed.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), 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 Autumn 2016 be noted.

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (TMR 06/12/16)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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