

5 November 2012

Agenda Item: **8****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, REGULATED AND CORPORATE  
PARENTING****ROTA VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES: MARCH & APRIL 2012****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 which took place in March and April 2012.

**Information and Advice**

2. **Lyndene** children's home was visited on 11 April 2012 by Councillors Fiona Asbury and Ged Clarke. The visit was very positive, with Councillor Asbury having an opportunity to talk to one of the young people living in the home. She reported the home as *"lovely, clean, warm, well decorated and very homely and welcoming"*. There were no recommendations.
3. **Caudwell House** was visited on 27 March 2012 by Councillor Allen Clarke. This was also a very positive visit. Councillor Clarke commented *"Rooms kept homely and clean. Evidence shows good individuality and cleanliness owing to risk of infection"*. He also observed that the windows needed cleaning, and was told about difficulties in procuring a local window cleaner. This is still the case, and the new manager will be trying to address this. Councillor Clarke also listened to the problems that were occurring with one of the lifts, and requested this be attended to. This has now been done.
4. **Minster View** was visited on 27 March 2012, also by Councillor Allen Clarke. He recorded *"Rooms very homely and well colour co-ordinated. Space for independent living and group living. Good use made of space i.e. ball pool"*. He was particularly impressed with the new sensory area and facilities, which has now been completed. The residential kitchen was also awaiting refurbishment, and this has also been completed. Councillor Clarke made one recommendation relating to the Business Management System (BMS) and this has also been addressed.
5. **Oakhurst** was visited on 18 April 2012 by Councillor Asbury. Councillor Asbury commended the staff, young people, managers and maintenance person on the work they do in maintaining a very welcoming and homely environment, and on achieving a positive Ofsted report. There was a strong recommendation about the upstairs bathroom needing a complete new refurbishment. This was passed onto our property services to action. However, this has still not been done, and is urgently being chased up with property services.

6. **West View** was visited on 2 April 2012 by Councillors John Allin and Bob Cross. West View has not received the report, but the manager has said that there were no recommendations.
7. **The Big House** was visited on 5 April 2012 by Councillors Ged Clarke and John Allin. It is again noted that the current building is in poor condition, and the layout of the building limits what can be done to make it more welcoming and homely. However it was noted that the staff "*have done all they can to make it welcoming*". The new play equipment in the grounds was viewed very favourably.
8. Both Councillors Clark and Allin have made some very useful comments on the form used relating to the difficulties inspecting 'visitors' have in independently ascertaining information about young peoples views about their stay at the Big House. The Service Manager is considering how this can be remedied.

### **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 finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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 report be noted.

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (NDR 22/10/12)**

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

**Background Papers**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0110