



**18 July 2023**

**Agenda Item 6**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR 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 Lyndene and Oakhurst and their feedback is detailed below.

**Lyndene on 9 June 2023**

5. Councillor Anderson and Councillor Callaghan visited Lyndene on 9 June 2023 at 3.30pm and the following represents their observations during the visit.
6. The young people appeared very happy and relaxed as they interacted well with staff members and each other. They were happy to sit and chat with us, one proudly showing us round their bedroom. The manager said they had completed a matrix in order to ensure the young people would be able to get along with each other. As it was a very warm day a big paddling pool had been filled on the back lawn and as soon as possible two of the young people were happily jumping in and out once sun cream had been applied to them. The young people said they had input into the weekly food menu and often went to purchase the ingredients with a staff member for the weekly meals. This weekend the menu had changed to add barbecue food which they were all excited about. The home

invites the young people's families to the home and twice a year they will put on a tea for all the young people's families and staff to socialise.

7. The young people appeared very safe as there were clear boundaries, rules and routines in place that they understood. One young person had not followed the rules and as a consequence their phone had been confiscated for the night. The phone was returned to them as they had behaved throughout the school day. There were several identified areas in and outside of the home where young people could be by themselves or talk privately with a member of staff. Staff members clearly had a good knowledge of each young person's needs and were able to support them when and if required to do so.
8. The young people said they liked living in the home, two of them choosing to live there as their foster placements were not right for them. They said that staff listen to them and give them time to communicate their wishes and feelings. None of the young people appeared to want to change anything at this time.
9. Staff spoke very warmly about each young person and appeared to want the very best for them. The home, which is beautifully maintained and resourced, is run like a real family home, giving these young people a secure and safe environment to thrive.
10. There were no concerns at the time of this visit.

### **Oakhurst on 20 June 2023**

11. Councillor Purdue-Horan visited Oakhurst on 20 June 2023 at 6pm and the following represents his observations during the visit.
12. Both the staff and two young people seemed to appreciate that a councillor had taken the time to visit.
13. The visit was made just as dinner was being served and the atmosphere was normal and relaxed.
14. There were five members of staff on site and there did not appear to be any reasons to be concerned about the young people.
15. One of the young people enjoys being able to play with the PlayStation but would like to use the Chill Out front room with the large flat screen, rather than hooking up to the main television in the lounge. The Chill Out room is awaiting finishing off following a damp issue and is currently closed off.
16. The re-decorating work in the downstairs front Chill Out room needs to be completed as soon as possible now that the damp repairs are complete. Councillor Purdue-Horan noted that major work is required on Oakhurst which keeps being delayed.
17. Another young person said they were happy at Oakhurst but would like to be allowed to go out with friends to local gigs in pubs with the approval of the Manager.
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 (GMG 05/07/23)**

23. This report falls within the remit of the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider (see p.125 of the Council's Constitution).

## **Financial Comments (CDS 05/07/23)**

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

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

25. 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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