

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Corporate Parenting Panel
2.	Date:	20 th January 2015
3.	Title:	Residential Children's Homes Inspection Updates
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

This report updates members on the latest Ofsted inspection outcomes for the Local Authority's Children's Homes.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Panel:

6.1 Note the inspection outcomes.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Current Ofsted Inspection Grades as at 14.1.15

7.1.1 Ofsted are required to inspect children's homes at least twice annually. One of these must be a full two day inspection with the second being a shorter, one day interim inspection.

Ofsted awards one of the following grades following each full inspection, depending on its findings:

Outstanding – this is a service of exceptional quality that significantly exceeds minimum requirements

Good – this is a service of high quality that exceeds minimum requirements

Adequate – this is service that only meets minimum requirements

Inadequate – this is a service that does not meet minimum requirements

7.1.2 The Local Authority has five children's homes in Rotherham. All of them have been inspected by Ofsted at least once, some of them twice, over the last four months. Four of them were inspected at the same time as and as part of the Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After, and Care Leavers in September and October.

The following table details the current Ofsted grades for each of the homes as well as the date of the most recent inspection.

Children's Home	Last Inspection Date	Current Grade
Silverwood	12.11.14	Good
St.Edmunds	22.9.14	Good
Liberty House	11.12.14	Good
Woodview	23.9.14	Adequate
Cherry Tree House	5.1.15	Adequate

7.1.4 The above table indicates that of our five children's home we currently have three graded as good, being services that are of high quality that exceed minimum requirements, and two that are adequate, being services that only meet minimum requirements.

7.2 Silverwood Children's Home

7.1.1 Silverwood Children's Home is a mainstream five bed home offering short term and emergency accommodation for young people aged 12 to 17. Silverwood's current Ofsted inspection grade is 'good'. This means Ofsted have assessed that it is a service of high quality that exceeds minimum requirements. This grade was awarded following the most recent full inspection on 12th December 2014.

7.2.2 This full inspection on was a follow up to a full inspection on 24th September 2014 when Ofsted graded the home as inadequate.

7.2.3 This inspection followed an unsettled period at Silverwood where the home was fully occupied and the young people had conflicting needs. Concerns raised in the inspection centred around the negative impact of some of the young people on the others, the lack of appropriate matching of young people's needs and a failure to move young people to alternative accommodation quickly enough. At the time of the inspection the home was nevertheless much more settled.

7.2.4 In the weeks between the inspection of 24th September and 12th November staff and management worked hard to address concerns raised. The inspector on the second inspection found that we had satisfactorily addressed all the concerns raised in the first inspection and that the home was providing a service that warranted a new Ofsted grading of 'good'. She approved of the plan to convert Silverwood into a long term home, on the basis that this would improve the ability of managers to properly assess and match children before placing them.

The inspector commented that the Registered Manager had taken swift and decisive action to address the specific circumstances and concerns which had led to an inadequate judgement at the last inspection.

7.3 St Edmunds Children's Home

7.3.1 St Edmunds Children's Home is a long term mainstream six bed home for young people aged 12 to 17. St Edmund's current Ofsted inspection grade is 'good'. This means Ofsted have assessed that it is a service of high quality that exceeds minimum requirements. This grade was awarded following the most recent full inspection on 4th July 2014.

7.3.2 St. Edmunds was subject to an interim inspection on 22nd September. Ofsted grades awarded at a full inspection are not changed at interim inspections. However the inspection does make a comment on 'progress' since the previous full inspection. In this inspection, Ofsted assessed that the performance of the home had 'declined in effectiveness', although the grade of 'good' awarded at the previous full inspection remained unchanged.

7.3.3 The inspection report for the interim inspection noted very positive work and outcomes for all the young people placed in St. Edmunds at the time except for one particular young person. This young person had experienced numerous missing person incidents while placed at St Edmunds and the Ofsted inspector was not satisfied that we had taken appropriate action to address this and that joint working with the Police on this case had appeared to break down. Ofsted issued a 'compliance notice' in relation to our practice at the home in relation to missing young people with a deadline date for compliance.

7.3.4 Ofsted visited again in November to check that the home had taken the necessary action to meet the compliance notice. Ofsted were satisfied in their visit that the home had met all aspects of the compliance notice in full and the home retains its grade of 'good'.

7.4 Liberty House Children's Home

7.4 1 Liberty House is a nine bed home offering eight short break beds for children with disabilities and 1 emergency bed for a child with disabilities for a maximum period of 12 weeks. Liberty House's current Ofsted inspection grade is 'good'. This means Ofsted have assessed that it is a service of high quality that exceeds

minimum requirements. This grade was awarded following the most recent full inspection on 18th September 2014.

The inspector stated that 'the young people benefit from the care and support of a team who are child focussed who have experience in caring for young people who have disabilities, autism and complex health needs'.

7.4.2 Liberty House was subject to an interim inspection on the 11th December 2014. This was as a result of Ofsted noting that Liberty House staff were being used to support the staffing of Cherry Tree House. Ofsted visited Liberty House to assess whether and to what extent the use of Liberty House staff at Cherry Tree had impacted on the running of the home at Liberty. In this interim inspection Ofsted were satisfied that Liberty House was continuing to offer a 'good' service and assessed that 'effectiveness had been sustained'.

7.5 Woodview Children's Home

7.5.1 Woodview Children's Home is a long term mainstream six bed home for young people aged 12 to 17. Woodview's current Ofsted inspection grade is 'adequate'. This means Ofsted have assessed that it is a service that only meets the minimum requirements. This grade was awarded following a full inspection on 23 September 2014.

7.5.2 Although the overall effectiveness grade for the home was adequate, the home was awarded a grade of 'good' in two out of the four sub judgements. The home received a grade of 'good' for 'quality of care' and 'outcomes for children and young people'. The inspector stated that young people's individual and diverse needs and vulnerabilities are comprehensively assessed and well met in their day-day care planning. The overall grade was pulled down to 'adequate' by judgements of adequate for 'keeping children and young people safe' and 'leadership and management'.

7.5.3 Ofsted noted a number of areas of concern in the inspection report including:

A breach of the home's Statement of Purpose as both the manager and deputy had been on leave, contrary to what our Statement states, on the day the inspector arrived.

Staff shortages through vacancies and sickness leaving a depleted staff team in place.

Poor recording of incidents of children missing

Insufficient evidence of the voice of the child

Failure to send on a quality monitoring report to Ofsted in timescale .

7.5.4 Actions have since been taken to satisfactory address all of the areas for improvement. For example three new staff have been recruited and action has been taken to ensure managers and their deputies do not take leave at the same time.

7.6 Cherry Tree House Children's Home

7.6.1 Cherry Tree House is a long term five bed children's home for children with disabilities. Cherry Tree House's current Ofsted inspection grade is 'adequate'. This means Ofsted have assessed that it is a service that only meets the minimum requirements. This grade was awarded following a full inspection on 5th January 2015.

7.6.2 This full inspection was a follow up to a full inspection on in November 2014 when Ofsted assessed the home as 'inadequate'.

7.6.3 Key concerns raised by Ofsted included:

Poor recording of incidents of behaviour management
Insufficient staff training
Insufficient recreational activities offered to young people
Staff shortages on the rota

7.6.3 Ofsted also issued a formal compliance notice to the home regarding some of the concerns identified.

7.6.4 On the inspection visit on 5th January 2015 Ofsted were satisfied that the home had met all of the matters identified on the compliance notice and had taken sufficient action to improve the home's grading to 'adequate'. The inspector was impressed with the progress made in such a short timescale and remarked that she could see no reason why the home would not achieve a 'good' grade at the next inspection.

7.6.5 It has been a very busy time for the residential service in terms of managing a significant number of Ofsted inspections across the service in a short period of time. While we do have three of our home rated as 'good' we do aspire for all of them to be graded as at least good and work will be ongoing to achieve this.

7.6.7 The service has recently employed a temporary improvement and development manager for a three month period to boost the management capacity to develop the service.

8. Finance

8.1 This is an information report. There are no financial implications.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 Performing poorly in Ofsted inspections risks reputational damage to the Council.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 The service is aiming for all of its children's homes to be graded as 'good' or better by Ofsted.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

11.1. None

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