

## **Cabinet – 8 February 2017**

### **Statements of Purpose: Children's Homes**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Rose Burley, Children's Services and Education

**Related portfolios:** No

**Service:** Children's Residential Services

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** No

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Walsall Council is currently registered with Ofsted to operate five children's homes. The National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes 2011 and the Children's Home Regulations (amended) 2015 requires that the registered person of a children's home, or in the case of a Local Authority, the Elected Members, approve the Statement of Purpose for the home and review, update and modify it where necessary at least annually.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Children's Home Regulations 2015 (Regulation 16 & Schedule 1) an annual review of the Statements of Purpose for each of Walsall's Children's Homes was completed by December 2016. This report sets out and seeks approval for the revised Statements of Purpose for each home.
- 1.3 Copies of the Statement of Purpose are available on the Committee information pages of the Council's website and have been deposited in political group rooms. Cabinet members have copies with this report.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the Statements of Purpose for each of the five Children's Homes operated by Walsall Council.

#### **3. Report detail**

- 3.1 Walsall has five Children's homes each of which is registered, inspected and regulated by Ofsted in accordance with the provisions of the Care Standards

Act 2000 and the Children's Home Regulations, including the Quality Standards 2015.

- 3.2 In accordance with the Children's Home Regulations 2015 (Regulation 16 Schedule 1) (**Appendix 1**) each Children's Home must have a written Statement of Purpose describing what the home sets out to do for the children it accommodates, the range of children the home accommodates and the manner in which care is provided.
- 3.3 Walsall Council is currently registered with Ofsted to operate the following children's homes; Redruth Road, Hilton Road, Lichfield Road, Spindle Tree Rise and Bluebells. In accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements of the Children's Home Regulations 2015 each home has compiled, kept and annually reviewed its Statement of Purpose.
- 3.4 An annual review of each of the Statements of Purpose was completed between June 16 and December 2016. For the information and approval of Cabinet the following information outlines the overall purpose and function each home and of any significant changes made to the Statements of Purpose as a result of the review.

### 3.5 **Redruth Road**

This year has had a major variation in Redruth's Statement of Purpose and functioning. In July 2016 Redruth ceased to function as a children's home that catered for children with physical and learning disability. This decision was based on 2 factors; the decline in demand for placement for children with disabilities; and the fact that it was recognised that the service could be delivered at a reduced costs by commissioning external services.

In September 2016 Redruth Road changed its function to a community based home whose purpose is to provide medium to long-term care, support and accommodation for up to 4 children with emotional and or behavioural difficulties, this may include mild learning difficulties for example Autism spectrum disorder. Children are of either sex and can range in age from 7-18 years.

The home continues to work in partnership with the children, their families and a multi-disciplinary team of professionals in creating an individual care plan to identify, co-ordinate and ensure the delivery of services to meet the holistic care needs of children with complex needs. This includes their physical, communication, emotional, physical, social, educational and spiritual needs of the individual child.

Their overarching objective is to ensure that the children within their care are provided with needs led and planned services which will secure their future well being and that care is provided in an environment which is homely, safe, empowering and nurturing. Redruth Road aims to provide this service regardless of the child's race, gender, culture, religion or sexual orientation.

### **3.6 Hilton Road**

The home is a medium to long term home, operating within a therapeutic model of Transaction Analysis, offering care for up to four young people who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional abuse and who otherwise would possibly require specialist out of Borough placements.

The overarching purpose of the home is to ensure that the young people within their care are provided with needs led and planned services which will secure the best possible outcomes now and into adult life and that care is provided in an environment which is homely, safe, empowering and nurturing.

There has been no significant change to the Statement of Purpose as part of the Statement of Purpose review.

### **3.7 Lichfield Road**

Lichfield Road children's home provides care and support for up to 4 children and young people with a range of needs who are unable to live at home or remain in their current placement.

The aim of Lichfield Road is to work in partnership with the relevant agencies and significant others in providing consistent and good quality needs led packages of care, with the aim of rehabilitating the child or young person back to their families or to allow residential assessments to be made to underpin the identification of long term placements.

There has been no significant change to the Statement of Purpose as part of the Statement of Purpose review.

### **3.8 Spindle Tree Rise**

Spindle Tree Rise is a community based home that sets out to help and support up to seven young people between the ages of 13 – 18 to achieve the best they can in relation to their health, wellbeing and education. During this reporting period Spindle Tree initially amended its statement of purpose to increase its capacity to provide accommodation for 7 young people. That is the home has recently extended its accommodation to include 2 semi independence training flats to support young people's transition to adulthood as well as 5 young people within the main body of the home. However in December 2016 the home has temporarily converted its semi independence flats to an annex which currently operates as a standalone provision to meet the needs of a child with very complex needs until a more appropriate provision can be sort to meet his long term needs.

The aim of Spindle Tree Rise is to work in partnership with the young people, their parents, social workers or personal advisors, other professionals, and significant others to assist in planning and facilitating consistent and good quality care for the young person whilst planning for their long term needs.

At Spindle Tree Rise one of the primary aims is to support young people to work towards gaining and embedding practical and emotional skills, which will help them to live successfully in adulthood. Young people are actively encouraged and supported to seek out positive opportunities and help them strive to get the very best out of life. Spindle Tree Rise work to ensure that the young people have opportunities and experiences, which enable them to develop emotionally, mentally and physically so that they can grow into fulfilled independent adults who are able to contribute to their community in a positive way.

Spindle Tree Rise offers young people stability within an environment that is homely, safe, empowering and nurturing. The staff group strive to be sensitive and respectful in their approach.

There has been a minor variation with an increase its capacity from 6 to 7 young people to the Statement of Purpose as part of this review.

### **3.9 Bluebells**

Bluebells provides residential short term breaks for up to six children per night with a disability. The home aims to work in partnership with Children and Young People, their families and a multi-disciplinary team of professionals in the formulation of an individual care plan. The objective of this is to identify, co-ordinate and ensure the delivery of services to meet the care, communication, emotional, physical, social, educational and spiritual needs of the individual child or young person.

Their overarching objective is to ensure that the children within their care are provided with needs led and planned services which will secure their future well being, and that care is provided in an environment which is homely, safe, empowering and nurturing.

There has been a recent change to the Statement of Purpose as part of the review to extend its service provision, on a commissioned basis, to another Local Authority, namely Wolverhampton Children's Services.

## **4. Council Priorities**

- 4.1 The main objective is to provide lifelong wealth and happiness for children and families by creating jobs and improving educational achievements will both help residents ensure they have the right skills and confidence to find suitable, sustainable employment that helps them achieve greater financial stability and reduce reliance on short term high interest loan providers and the state.
- 4.2 Continuing to promote health and well being and enabling residents to find suitable opportunities to be active through the range of services provided will help people live independent, healthy and active lives.

- 4.3 Developing healthy and sustainable places and communities and continuing to tackle all inequalities will help to strengthen and empower our diverse communities.
- 4.4 These key priorities will ensure placement stability, care and protection and to support good permanency plans for all our Looked After Children. Enable staff to raise aspirations with improved opportunities to education and training in a healthy and nurturing environment to improve the life outcomes of all Looked After Children including those who are placed within our local children's homes.

## **5. Risk management**

- 5.1 There are no identified risks arising from the review of the Children's Homes Statements of Purpose and Location Impact risk assessment.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 There are no additional operational costs identified as a result of changing the statement of purpose for Redruth
- 6.2 Changes to the statement of purpose for Redruth should allow Children services to accommodate some of its more complex LAC cases which are often located in higher cost external residential placements, and will increase the occupancy levels and utilisation of its internal residential placements.
- 6.3 There are savings within the MTFO attributed to LAC Out of Borough reductions, LAC reductions or Foster care recruitment, profiled as: £680k for Year 1, £762k for year 2 and £1.823m for year 3. The changes to the statement of purpose will help contribute towards overall LAC cost reductions.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 Each of the Statements of Purpose reflects statutory and regulatory requirements, current practice and future service developments.
- 7.2 In accordance with statutory requirements Ofsted have been notified of the changes to the Statement of Purpose.

## **8. Property implications**

- 8.1 The National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes 2011 and the Children's Home (Amendment) Regulations 2015 place duties on service providers to ensure good premises and environmental standards.

## **9. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 9.1 Comprehensive health and safety audits have taken place throughout each year, all key areas of concern are in the process of being addressed.

## **10. Staffing implications**

- 10.1 The employer is fair and competent, and operates sound employment practices and good support for its staff. The staff and the registered person are properly managed, supported and understand to whom they are accountable. They are easily able to access the advice needed to provide a comprehensive service for children and young people.
- 10.2 Suitable arrangements exist for professional supervision of the registered person. Also, staff have access to support and advice and are provided with regular supervision by appropriately qualified and experienced staff. A written or electronic record is kept by the home detailing the time, date and length of each supervision held or each member of staff, including the registered person. The record is signed by the supervisor and the member of staff.
- 10.3 All members of staff have their performance individually and formally appraised at least annually and this appraisal takes into account any views of children the service is providing for.
- 10.4 All members of staff have their practice observed by appropriately qualified and experienced staff on twice a year.

## **11. Equality implications**

- 11.1 Looked after Children are a vulnerable group at risk of social exclusion and poor life chances. Continued development of the Statements of Purpose for Children's Residential Services ensures a relevant range of appropriate internal placement options for looked after children and supports the focus on outcomes that form a critical part of the regulatory assessments of Children's Services by Ofsted and the objectives within the Children and Young People Care Plan.
- 11.2 This review of the Statements of Purpose for Walsall's children's homes informs and compliments the continued development and expansion of the range of placement options and services available for children and young people within Walsall and ensures that local placements are available, appropriate to current need and meet regulatory requirements. Developing and maintaining positive living environments for children and young people in residential care will have a direct impact on children's placement stability, emotional health and their educational achievement and attainment in accordance with the requirements of the Children's Act 2004. As such the Statements of Purpose reflect the Council's commitment to providing equality of opportunity for Looked after Children living within the residential care within Walsall.

## **12. Consultation**

Ofsted, Children & Parents, Independent Reviewing officers, Staff Group, and Finance have been consulted as an aspect of the review of the Statements of Purpose.

**Background papers** – none.

**Author**

Angela Edwards

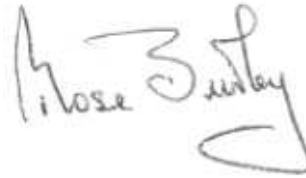
Interim Operations Manager

☎ 654551

✉ [angela.edwards2@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:angela.edwards2@walsall.gov.uk)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Haley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'H'.

David Haley  
Executive Director  
Date: 18 January 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Burley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'R' and 'B'.

Councillor R Burley  
Portfolio Holder  
Date: 30 January 2017

**Children's Home Regulations 2015  
Schedule 1 (Regulation 16)**

**Matters to be included in the Statement of Purpose**

**Quality and purpose of care**

1. A statement of the range of needs of the children for whom it is intended that the children's home is to provide care and accommodation.
2. Details of the home's ethos, the outcomes that the home seeks to achieve and its approach to achieving them.
3. A description of the accommodation offered by the home including:-
  - (a) how accommodation has been adapted to the needs of the children;
  - (b) the age range, number and sex of the children for whom it is intended that accommodation is to be provided; and
  - (c) the type of accommodation including sleeping accommodation.
4. A description of the location of the home.
5. The arrangements for supporting the cultural, linguistic and religious needs for children.
6. Details of who to contact if a person has a complaint about the home and how that person can access the home's complaint policy.
7. Details of how a person, body or organisation involved in the care or protection of a child can access the home's child protection policies or behaviour management policy.

**Views, wishes and feelings**

8. A description of the home's policy and approach to consulting children about the quality of their care.
9. A description of the home's policy and approach in relation to:-
  - (a) anti-discriminatory practice in respect of children and their families; and
  - (b) children's rights.

**Education**

10. Details of provision to support children with special educational needs.
11. If the home is registered as a school, details of the curriculum provided by the home and the management and structure of the arrangements for education.
12. If the home is not registered as a school, the arrangements for the children to attend local schools and the provision made by the home to promote children's educational achievement.

**Enjoy and achievement**

13. The arrangement for enabling children to take part in and benefit from a variety of activities that meet their needs and develop and reflect their creative, intellectual, physical and social interests and skills.



**Health**

14. Details of any healthcare or therapy provided, including:-

- (a) Details of the qualifications and professional supervision on staff involved in providing any healthcare or therapy; and
- (b) Information about how the effectiveness of any healthcare or therapy provided is measured, the effectiveness and details of how the information or the evidence can be accessed.

**Positive relationships**

15. The arrangements for promoting contact between children and their families and friends.

**Protection of children**

16. A description of the home's approach to the monitoring and surveillance of children.

17. Details of the home's approach to behavioural support, including information about:-

- (a) the home's approach to restraint in relation to children; and
- (b) how person working in the home are trained in restraint and how their competence is assessed.

**Leadership and management**

18. The name and work address if:-

- (a) the registered provider;
- (b) the responsible individual (if one is nominated); and
- (c) the registered manager (if one is appointed).

19. Details of the experience and qualifications of staff, including any staff commissioned to provide education or health care.

20. Details of the management and staffing structure of the home, including any arrangements for professional supervision of staff, including staff that provide education or health care.

21. If the staff are all of one sex, or mainly of one sex, a description of how the home promotes appropriate role models of both sexes.

**Care planning**

22. Any criteria used for the admission of the children to the home, including any policies and procedures for emergency admission.