

## Statement of Purpose: Childrens Homes

**Portfolio:** Councillor A Nawaz

**Related portfolios:** N/A

**Service:** Provider Service, Children's 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 the Local Authority, 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 (Regulation 16 & Schedule 1) an annual review of the Statements of Purpose for each of Walsall's Children's Homes has been completed. This report sets out and seeks approval for the updated 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 the political group rooms. Cabinet members have copies with this report.

### 2. Recommendations

- 1.1 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 17 and January 2018. 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** is 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, and who otherwise would possibly require specialist out of Borough placements.

Redruth Road has been rated as Outstanding in all areas and Outstanding overall by Ofsted in their most recent inspection November 2017. The monthly independent visitors' reports for Redruth Road which are sent directly to Ofsted indicated over the year (2017) improved outcomes for children along their journey of care at Redruth Road no concerns have been raised by this independent service.

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.

In October 2017 Redruth commenced weekly partnership meeting with our local CAMHS service to support children to remain within placements in Borough. The early indicators of this partnership show that children are receiving the right interventions at the right level to support their individual needs.

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.

There have been no significant changes to the statement of purpose this year.

- 3.6 **Hilton Road** children's home is a medium to long-term facility, offering care to children who may have suffered physical, sexual or emotional abuse and who otherwise would possibly require specialist out of borough placements.

The home works in partnership with children, their families and a multi-disciplinary team of professionals in forming an individual care plan. The aim of each plan is to identify, co-ordinate and ensure the delivery of services to meet the care, emotional, physical, educational and spiritual needs of the individual child.

Every month the home receives a visit from an independent visitor who carries out a Regulation 44 check, this is a regulatory requirement and records of the visits and their outcomes are sent to Ofsted and assist with the inspection framework. We value this as a vital part of our ongoing monitoring and learning.

Our overarching purpose is to ensure that the children within our 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.

The home received its most recent full inspection from Ofsted on the 18 and 19 January 2018. The outcome of the inspection was "Good" in all areas therefore an overall judgement of "Good".

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

- 3.7 **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.

The home has had regular monthly visits from the Regulation 44 visitor and the reports have been very positive and complimentary of the home with few requirements to action. The Regulation 44 Visitor spoke to CAHMS who do weekly consultation with staff team. Regulation 44 visitor spoke to CAMHS about the new initiative and said that has been built in to allow the staff team to gain insight and support from CAMHS on a weekly basis to talk about specific issues with young people and discuss strategies to assist progress. These sessions have been very useful and it has led to one young person re-engaging in therapy and another young person starting therapeutic work to assist with anger management.

The home had its last inspection on 8 November 2017 over two days and was judged 'Good' in all areas. The inspector commented on the young people having a positive relationship with staff and that the home celebrated their achievements, plus verbal praise which enhanced their self-esteem and confidence. The inspector stated that staff are motivated and have high aspirations for the children & young people.

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

- 3.8 **Bluebells** provides overnight short term breaks for children with disabilities, complex care and health needs. The purpose built service accommodates up to six children each night throughout the year including weekends and school holidays

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 personalised support 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 are provided with meaningful and regular short breaks away from their home and school environment. This helps enhance their life experiences, widen social peer and friendship interaction and allows for bespoke support in promoting and empowering independence for life and enabling community access. Bluebells is currently supporting overnight short breaks for approximately 40 children. Bluebells continues to extend its service provision, on a commissioned basis, to another Local Authority, namely Wolverhampton Children's Services. Short breaks are currently being provided for 5 children referred by Wolverhampton children's services. Bluebells last full Ofsted inspection was undertaken on 20 & 21 November 2017. The outcome of this inspection was an overall judgment of Good. The Bluebells team are currently working on enhancing the details of personalised care plans and care planning documents for all children.

Managers also have plans in place in order to correct consistency issues with the frequency of staff supervision sessions. This is also linked to reviews of staff personal development plans and appraisals, currently under review.

Work is also underway in relation to wider consultation on the effectiveness of the service by seeking further views from children, parents, staff and wider professionals. A review of this consultation will help to guide the developments of the service as we move through the coming year.

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

- 3.9 **Spindle Tree Rise** is situated in the heart of the Short Heath community of Willenhall. The home sets out to support up to seven young people between the ages of 13 to 17 aiming to promote and maintain good links to their health and wellbeing. This incorporates developing positive links to education, training and employment meeting future aspirations and learning experiences.

Spindle Tree Rise primary aims are to develop and embed the emotional resilience needed to support successful transitions into adulthood. Young people are actively supported to explore positive opportunities, which can help them build the confidence to strive, achieving their aspirations in life. We ensure that the young people are exposed to opportunities and experiences, which enable physical and emotional stability, contributing to independent fulfilment.

Spindle Tree Rise offers a safe and stable living environment, empowering young people to effectively work with professionals in a multi-agency and nurturing team. It is our aim to facilitate medium to long term care planning for sustained relationships building. Supporting and advocating for realistic, practical solutions, whilst developing and exploring family links. This is achieved whilst working in collaboration with social workers, personal advisors, parents and significant others.

To support the improvement for consistent care planning we have monthly quality audits from an independent visitor, through the Regulation 44 process. This has offered stable feedback and supported the promotion of effective practice, supporting and developing intervention strategies for young people at risk of exploitation, when missing from care. This has supported the improvement around the implementation of plans and partnership working.

Spindle Tree Rise had a full 2 - day Ofsted Inspection on the 8 and 9 January 2018 the inspection concluded and overall judgement of 'Requires Improvement'. Some good examples of young people's experiences and how young people are supported to develop and grow. Introductions back into education and developing the links for young people was positive and recognised as a strength across the service. The complexities of working within a vulnerable group of young people who take associated risks within the community was acknowledged, with good evidence of safeguarding. Wider discussion with the young people to embed the control measures through key-working is an area for improvement. Developing partnerships for keep safe work to embed and reduce the risk from presenting behaviours

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

#### **4.0 Council Corporate Plan Priorities**

**4.1 Children have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.** For all children who are looked after by Walsall Council the responsibilities as Corporate Parents must reflect the Council's Priorities and especially those children who are cared for in our children's homes as they have the most complex needs. This key priority 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 savings within the medium term financial outlook (MTFO) attributed to Looked After Children (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.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 Each of the Statements of Purpose reflects statutory and regulatory requirements, current practice and future service developments.

## **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 Developing and maintaining positive living environments for children and young people in residential care has a direct and positive impact on children's health and well being.

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 for 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. Reducing inequalities**

- 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

- 12.1 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

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Sally Rowe  
Executive Director  
Date: 9 March 2018



Councillor A Nawaz  
Portfolio Holder  
Date 9 March 2018

### 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.