

*Committee Support*

*Director*  
OCTOBER 93

*10(c)*

## COMMUNITY HOMES - MONTHLY INSPECTION VISITS

1. Name of Community Home: BEECHWOOD
2. Visit by: Paul Bohan
3. Status: Service Manager
4. Date of visit: 14.3.96
5. Time of visit: 11.30 am
6. Date of last visit: 22.3.96
7. Time of last visit: 4.30 pm

### 8. RECORDS EXAMINED

#### 8.1 Record of sanctions:

Comments: Not all the cards in the Sanctions Book were filled out correctly. I found it was unnecessary to record the actual abusive language that a child had shouted at a member of staff.

Follow-up action required: Unit Manager to check monthly and shift leaders to check all entries to Sanctions Book on a daily basis.

#### 8.2 Daily Log:

Comments: The logging system and daily recording was of an acceptable standard.

Follow-up action required: None

#### 8.3 Fire record:

Date of last fire drill: 27.2.96

Date of last fire test: 14.3.96

Date of emergency lighting test: 14.3.96

Follow-up action required: Unit Manager to ensure that In-Unit Training Strategy all staff can carry out fire drills and weekly tests.

ADMIN - A copy of this form to be sent to:

(1) Director of Social Services (Committee Support)

(2) Assistant Director (Trent)

- Retain original

9. ANY COMMENTS MADE BY

9.1 Any child or young person: I saw a number of youngsters during my inspection but they were busy around the unit and chose not to share any information with me.

Follow-up action required: None

9.2 Any family member of a child or young person: There has been token communication between the residential staff and the parents of the young people. This is evidenced from the daily log.

Follow-up action required: To continue communicating with parents.

9.3 Any Staff member: The general deterioration and need for refurbishment was mentioned by a number of staff. The need for new furniture to be bought was also raised.

Follow-up action required:

10. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PREMISES

Comments: The staff are gradually decorating a number of bedrooms but clearly it is Social Services responsibility to ensure that money is made available to redecorate and provide appropriate furniture and refurbish the unit when necessary. No money has been spent on refurbishment by the Implementation Team. In my view it is badly in need of refurbishment.

Follow-up action required: Service Manager to request that District underspends should be spent on refurbishing Beechwood and bringing it up to adequate and acceptable standards.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Comments: During my inspection I found an empty plastic petrol container in the Unit which is unacceptable which was removed and brought to the attention of staff.

The temperature of the building is still low. No replacement boiler has been installed and no gas fire has been installed in the dining room as was agreed by Property Services.

Follow-up action required: I believe it is incumbent on both the Unit and myself to try and rectify and ask for support and guidance in bringing the Unit up to a reasonable temperature. This has been to no avail. The temperature of the Unit is unacceptably low. Property Services have assured me on numerous occasions that a new boiler will be installed and that a gas fire will be placed in the dining room. As yet this has not been acted upon.

12. ANY INSTANCES OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE OR INJURY TO A YOUNG PERSON OR STAFF MEMBER, OR ANY ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST STAFF

Comments: There has been a fight between two boys which has resulted in damage to both boys. This has been dealt with appropriately within the Unit and the status quo has been restored by the staff.

Follow-up action required: None

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13. . . ANY OTHER COMMENTS

While great strides have been made in improving the systems and infrastructure in managing the Unit, attention needs to be given to raising the quality of child care at Beechwood. This I am aware will be focused on during the next coming months.

The lack of decent furniture in the Unit and the poor state of the building does need seriously addressing by Social Services Department. It is unacceptable still to have cracked windows in the Unit after the Unit trying to have these repaired and my own involvement with the teleclerks in Property Services. These shortcomings are persistent and the remedies lacking on a consistent basis. While I have every confidence in the development of residential services at Beechwood, I have yet to see any serious commitment by the Social Services Department to refurbishing and bringing Beechwood up to an acceptable standard.

**DPA**

Signed:

Date: 21.3.96

*for* P T Bohan, Service Manager

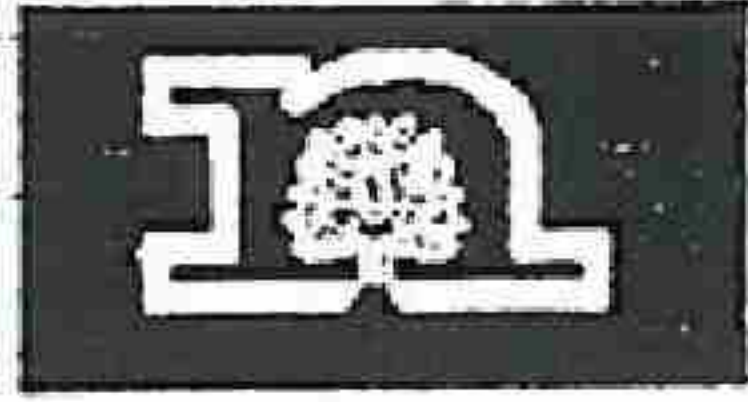
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(2) Assistant Director (Trent)

- Retain original

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Nottinghamshire County Council  
Social Services Department  
Committee Support Section

ACTION SHEET ON ROTA VISIT REPORT

Members made a Rota Visit to Beechwood and a copy of their report is attached for your information.

The Members have requested some follow-up action and I should be pleased if you would initiate the appropriate action as highlighted. Please confirm the action taken in the space below and return this form to Lisa Sole by: week ending 3rd May 1996 in order that a copy of this form can be sent to the appropriate Panel and to Members before their next visit to the above establishment.

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Action Taken By:

Please see attached report.

Name: Norman Hanson

Date: 26.4.96.

Designation: Deputy District Manager

When completed, this form should be returned to Lisa Sole, Committee Section, Social Services Department, County Hall.

This is only one of a number of initiatives at Beechwood and is still in its infancy but we believe in what we are doing and wish to expand it as far as staffing and finances will allow.

**DPA**

**DPA**

A. J. Bosworth  
Unit Manager