

DPA



Nottinghamshire County Council
Social Services Department

Committee Support

10(f)

DPA

COMMUNITY HOMES - MONTHLY INSPECTION VISITS

1. Name of Community Home: BEECHWOOD
2. Visit by: Paul Bohan
3. Status: Service Manager
4. Date of visit: 4 January 1996
5. Time of visit: 10.55 am
6. Date of last visit: 6.12.95
7. Time of last visit: 7.40 am
8. RECORDS EXAMINED

8.1 Record of sanctions:

Comments: All sanctions placed on children were acceptable. A number of children brought drugs into the Unit and have been sanctioned. Unit Manager to keep up the good practice of monthly checking of all entries in the Sanction Book.

Follow-up action required: Unit Manager to continue to check all entries in the Sanction Book.

8.2 Daily Log:

Comments: The Daily Log is of a good standard in the Unit. I am aware that the Unit Manager is looking to develop this standard even further.

Follow-up action required: None

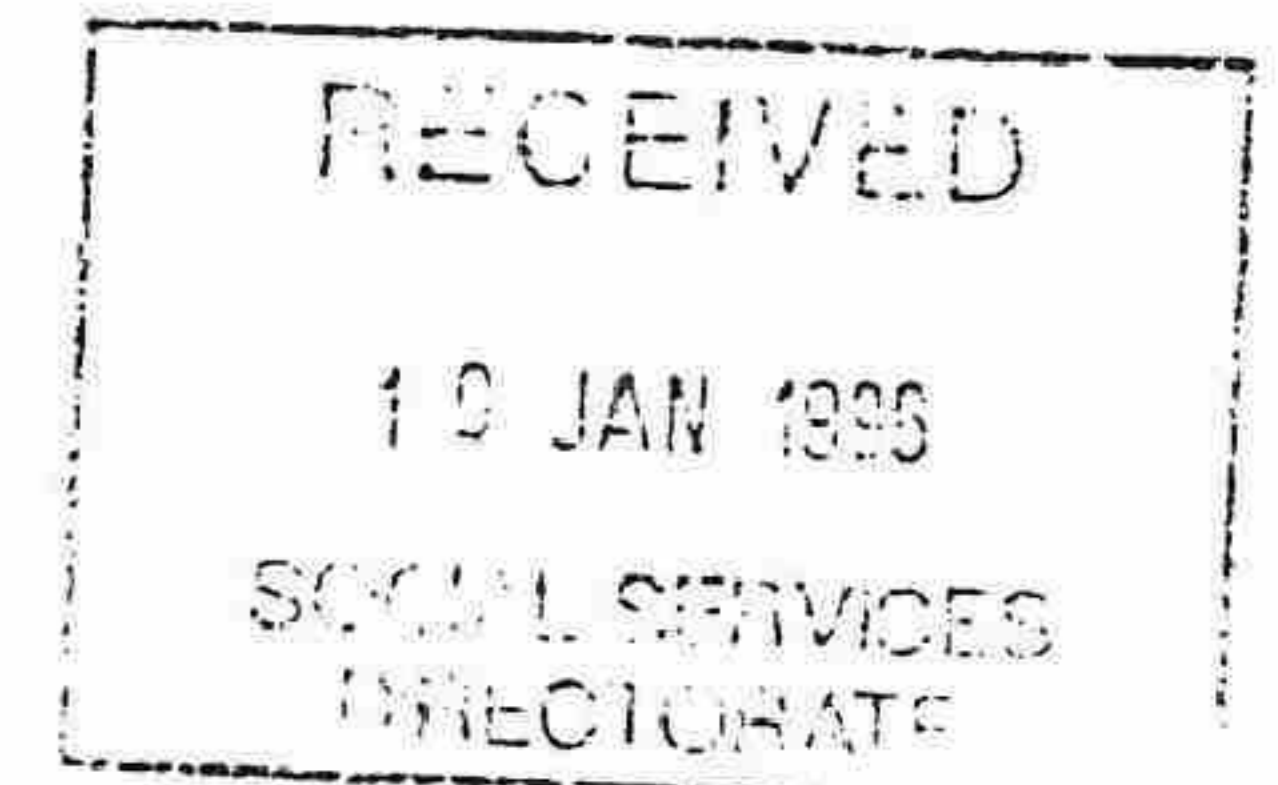
8.3 Fire record:

Date of last fire drill: 4.12.95

Date of last fire test: 1.1.96

Date of emergency lighting test: 15.12.95

Follow-up action required: Clearly there have been two weekly fire tests that have been missed over the Christmas/New Year period. This has already been picked up and brought to the attention of all staff at the last staff meeting and this is not expected to occur again.



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9. ANY COMMENTS MADE BY

9.1 Any child or young person: It is interesting to note that since my last inspection when I mentioned that one young person had alleged that their mail had been opened, he said that this wasn't the case and that he should not have made the complaint. He did not name any member of staff, and my view is that it was a malicious complaint. During my inspection this time there were no complaints from the children. A number were very positive about the settled Unit, and particularly the work undertaken by the new RSW who has joined Beechwood.

Follow-up action required: None

9.2 Any family member of a child or young person: I am aware that staff at the Unit regularly contact families and are regularly praised for the work that they undertake. I have not come across families putting this in writing but would find it exceptional if the positive news regarding quality of residential child care placed in writing.

Follow-up action required: None

9.3 Any Staff member: I spoke to a number of staff. They are very pleased with the work currently undertaken by the new Manager and his team, and clearly the Unit is benefitting from a number of initiatives that are currently taking place.

Follow-up action required: None

10. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PREMISES

Comments: The pool room has a horrible smell in it, and also a cracked window. The heating within the dining room I personally don't believe is still up to an acceptable level.

There are a number of light bulbs throughout the Unit that need replacing and the lighting to the car park at the front needs to be improved.

Follow-up action required: I have raised with Property Services (JM) all the above issues and I am awaiting reports to be faxed to me to see what action has been taken to ensure that these problems have been dealt with.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Comments: As stated previously I believe that the smell in the pool room which has recently been re-ceilinged and decorated, needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

I have been informed that Beechwood still has a problem with infestations of rodents. Lighting needs to be placed to the front of the building to ensure that it is safe for visitors, staff and children to enter the building from the car park.

There is a damaged power point in the drying room which needs to be addressed.

Follow-up action required: All the above difficulties have been raised with Property Services as a matter of health and safety and have been asked to be picked up as a matter of urgency.

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 have been no instances to record at Beechwood.

Follow-up action required: None

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13. ANY OTHER COMMENTS

The boundary fence between Beechwood and the neighbours has not been erected as yet although preparation work, i.e. trimming back of trees and shrubs, has been undertaken.

There was only one vacancy at Beechwood on my inspection and there has been no absconding of children for over a week.

Both the Unit Manager and myself have been involved with the Police and the Anti-Drugs Squad to tackle the problem towards the end of 1995, about children bringing illegal drugs into the Unit.

There are currently no staffing vacancies. All posts have been filled.

Out of 14, young people in Beechwood, only three were in school on the day of my inspection. This is a common problem that is persistent in all community homes, when children are excluded or part-excluded from their schools or "in between schools." This issue has been raised with EWO's on a regular basis.

Beechwood was not as warm as I expected and I have personally spoken to Property Services about the possibility of either replacing the boiler with a newer and more efficient model, or providing additional heating within the Unit.

There was one young person who was in bed with flu during my visit and my view was that the building was only just adequately heated.

Overall, a very positive inspection. Clearly there are a lot of plans and systems being put into place. The children have been managed, there were no neighbourhood problems and staff morale is of a high level.

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Signed:

Date: 5.1.96

P T Bohan, Service Manager

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