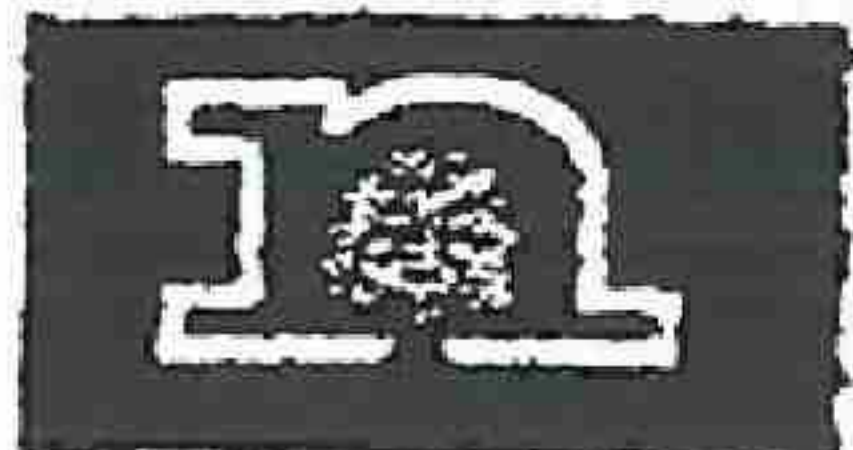


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OCTOBER 9

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Nottinghamshire County Council
Social Services Department

COMMUNITY HOMES - MONTHLY INSPECTION VISITS

1. Name of Community Home: Beechwood
2. Visit by: Paul Bohan
3. Status: Service Manager
4. Date of visit: 15th April 1994
5. Time of visit: 7.30 am
6. Date of last visit: 7th March 1994
7. Time of last visit: 7.30 pm

8. RECORDS EXAMINED

8.1 Record of sanctions:

Comments: I examined the sanctions book and was happy with the way that sanctions were placed on young people. There was an entry which said that "young people were given absconders food." When I followed this comment through, this meant that young people who missed the main evening meal and returned considerably later or in the early hours of the morning were not given a full meal but given sandwiches and a drink before being put to bed.

Follow-up action required: The use of the term "absconders food" is misleading and should not be used.

8.2 Daily Log:

Comments: As usual the communication system in Beechwood is precise and factual and adequate for the task in hand.

Follow-up action required: Senior staff to monitor on a regular basis the written communication within Beechwood.

8.3 Fire record:

Date of last fire drill: 21.3.94

Date of last fire test: 24.4.94

Follow-up action required: None apart from the tidying up of the fire book.

9. ANY COMMENTS MADE BY

9.1 Any child or young person: During my visit one person said that the house was quite cold at night. On checking I found that the solar heating system had been turned down/off on the previous 2 days because of the onset of warm spring weather. On the day I visited the weather had returned to a more wintry approach and the Unit was cool.

Follow-up action required: Replace the heating system and rather than turn off, reduce down to a lower level to ensure that the young people and staff are not living or working in a cool environment.

9.2 Any family member of a child or young person: A number of young people are having regular telephone contact with their family but not a high proportion of young people have their family visiting.

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- (1) Director of Social Services (Committee Support)
- (2) Assistant Director (Trent)

- Retain original

Follow-up action required: To continue to encourage parents and primary carers to visit the young people in Beechwood.

9.3 Any Staff member: The staff I spoke to were clear, competent and confident about the work they were asked to undertake. A member did share with me the incident where an uncle of a young man threatened to shoot a member of staff with a shotgun and another young man [Name Redacted] had assaulted 3 members of staff and caused a considerable amount of criminal damage prior to him leaving Beechwood.

Follow-up action required: Service Manager to discuss with the Superintendent of Oxclose Lane Police Station the procedures when young people assault and physically damage residential Social Workers.

10. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PREMISES

Comments: A number of staff have made considerable effort in personally painting a number of areas within the Unit to improve the standards. Overall the physical condition of Beechwood is of a relatively high standard considering their clientele and the recent criminal damage which has taken place by [Name Redacted]

Follow-up action required: It needs to be acknowledged that the staff have put considerable effort into ensuring that the Unit is kept in as pristine a condition as is possible.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Comments: There is inadequate heating within the Dining Room and in the small Family Room I found no heating whatsoever.

Follow-up action required: To raise these 2 issues with Property Services and ask for a prompt response which needs to be actioned before my next inspection.

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

Comments: As previously mentioned, one young person brought his uncle down who verbally threatened a member of staff that he would be shot if he continued to place boundaries round his nephew. One young man [Name Redacted] has assaulted 3 members of staff.

Follow-up action required: As previously stated, to monitor and minimise potential violence to staff and to work closely with the Police, CPS and the Courts to ensure that young people who are placed at Beechwood understand the severity of their action should they assault members of staff.

13. ANY OTHER COMMENTS Once again, a very positive inspection of Beechwood where the staff as a team are giving thought to managing the young people they deal with not just here and now but planning for the future when there will hopefully be a reduction in numbers.

To re-iterate the points previously made in this inspection report, it needs to be acknowledged, the hard working effort a number of staff have made to improve the physical decor within Beechwood.

DPA

Signed:

Date: 28th April 1994

P T Bohan, Service Manager

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- (1) Director of Social Services (Committee Support)
- (2) Assistant Director (Trent)

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