

FILE

Reply to: **Lionel Anthony**

Tel No: **DPA**

Email: **DPA**

Our Ref: **DPA**

Ext: **DPA**

31<sup>st</sup> October 2002

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Dear Margaret,

**Re: Nottingham City Council plans to relocate youngsters currently accommodated at 387 Woodborough Road**

Thank you for the fax dated 29.10.2002 sent to Steve Ashmore in regard to the above proposals. Steve Ashmore is currently on leave and in his absence I am responsible for the management of Children's Service issues within this operational area of the National Care Standards Commission.

Having had an opportunity to evaluate your proposals and to discuss them with colleagues I felt it appropriate to arrange immediate visits by Inspectors to the three homes proposed as providing additional beds.

Our key consideration is to ensure that the welfare of children is being safeguarded and protected and from this perspective each of the establishments present serious areas for concern as indicated under:

**229 Beechdale Road (Snuzzle room previously used as a bedroom)**

- The original Snuzzle room was changed into a bedroom and a bedroom became the Snuzzle room because that bedroom was agreed as being too small. This unsuitably sized room is the room you now intend to return to use as a bedroom.
- One of the Children may be returning to the home on Saturday, this needs to be clarified.

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- There were no plans available regarding additional appropriate staff being available and placed on the home's roster.
- The home already has a number of staff off sick and agency staff are used to ensure provide cover.
- The home has consistently breached occupancy levels. For example between 16<sup>th</sup> April 2002 and 22nd August 2002 the home went over numbers without the required agreement of the National Care Standards Commission on two occasions ( at one time for a period of five weeks).

#### **Radford Bridge Road (Ground floor flat/Annexe)**

- An existing resident currently occupies this flat.
- While the toilets were downstairs, the bathing facilities were upstairs
- Repairs need to be done to the hot water system. The controls had to be turned on full to obtain any hot water.
- There were nine residents accommodated in a home where the maximum should be eight, in breach of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.
- This home has been over the occupancy level on other occasions without the required agreement of the National Care Standards Commission.
- Any further admission to this home would merely increase the over occupancy level.

#### **12A Ranskill Gardens (Existing staff sleep-in room)**

- There is a perception by the male residents within the home that female residents are receiving preferential treatment. With a proposal for another female resident being admitted from 387 Woodborough Road (and her keyworker being added to the staff group) this perception may be further exacerbated and could have serious implications for the stability of the current residents.
- This room is situated amongst a suit of rooms containing female residents, therefore the introduction of a male resident into this area is polemical.
- This room is an ex- storeroom and is too small to be used as a bedroom for resident.
- There is concern over the type of door used for this room which might prevent easy access to it, should the resident decide to barricade themselves in the room.
- The home has exceeded agreed occupancy levels during the last twelve months on a number of occasions in breach of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001.

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During the course of the visit and based upon documented evidence presented to the National Care Standards Commission there is nothing to suggest that the emotional and developmental needs of any child/young person moving from 387 Woodborough Road to any of the above homes has been considered and no mechanisms have been put in place to provide appropriate support.

Given the emotional turmoil recently undergone by the children/young persons at 387 Woodborough Road we would like to be informed of what steps/efforts have been made to facilitate their smooth integration into the well established resident groups at Beechdale Road, Radford Bridge Road and Ranskill Gardens.

The National Care Standards Commission would expect to receive a detailed Risk Assessment pertaining to the impact on the operational dynamics of the above mentioned homes with regard to the children/young persons moving from 387 Woodborough Road, and the children/young persons currently accommodated within Beechdale Road, Radford Bridge Road and Ranskill Gardens, prior to any move taking place.

Based on the evidence so far presented to the Commission we are not satisfied that Nottingham City Council has demonstrated adequate and due regard to ensuring **the safety and welfare of children/young people currently accommodated at 387 Woodborough Road or the other three homes. We are therefore not in a position to agree to your plans as.**

Yours sincerely,

Lionel Anthony  
Locality Manager  
National Care Standards Commission (Nottinghamshire).