

inspection report

Children's Services

**Nottinghamshire County Council
Fostering Service**

County Hall
Loughborough Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

31st March 2005

Commission for Social Care Inspection

Launched in April 2004, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) is the single inspectorate for social care in England.

The Commission combines the work formerly done by the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI), the SSI/Audit Commission Joint Review Team and the National Care Standards Commission.

The role of CSCI is to:

- Promote improvement in social care
- Inspect all social care - for adults and children - in the public, private and voluntary sectors
- Publish annual reports to Parliament on the performance of social care and on the state of the social care market
- Inspect and assess 'Value for Money' of council social services
- Hold performance statistics on social care
- Publish the 'star ratings' for council social services
- Register and inspect services against national standards
- Host the Children's Rights Director role.

Inspection Methods & Findings

SECTION B of this report summarises key findings and evidence from this inspection. The following 4-point scale is used to indicate the extent to which standards have been met or not met by placing the assessed level alongside the phrase "Standard met?"

The 4-point scale ranges from:

- 4 - Standard Exceeded (Commendable)
- 3 - Standard Met (No Shortfalls)
- 2 - Standard Almost Met (Minor Shortfalls)
- 1 - Standard Not Met (Major Shortfalls)

'O' or blank in the 'Standard met?' box denotes standard not assessed on this occasion.

'9' in the 'Standard met?' box denotes standard not applicable.

'X' is used where a percentage value or numerical value is not applicable.

TYPE OF ADDITIONAL INSPECTION VISIT
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Statutory Unannounced Inspection	
Follow up of Previous Inspection	
Follow up of Enforcement Action	
Complaints Investigation	
Monitoring Visit	YES
Advisory Visit	
Other	
Specify:	

TYPE OF SERVICE INSPECTED

Children's Home	
Boarding School (not registered as a children's home)	
Residential Special School (not registered as a children's home)	
Further Education College	
Residential Family Centre	
Independent Fostering Agency	
Local Authority Fostering Service	YES
Voluntary Adoption Agency	
Local Authority Adoption Service	
ID Code	
Lead Inspector	1 Jane Barton 134550
Name of Further Inspector (if applicable)	2
Name of Further Inspector (if applicable)	3
Name of Further Inspector (if applicable)	4
Name of Lay Assessors (if applicable) Lay assessors are members of the public independent of the CSCI. They accompany inspectors on some inspections and bring a different perspective to the inspection process.	
Name of Specialist (e.g. Interpreter/Signer) (if applicable)	
Name of Establishment Representative at the time of inspection	Alison Shield

Number of Inspector Days spent on site:	1
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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE VISIT

The purpose of the visit was to update on progress following requirements and recommendations arising from the inspection carried out on 26th January 2004, and plan for the next inspection, agreement of dates for pre-inspection meeting, inspection and required preparation for inspection.

A Senior Manager was able to give verbal updates in respect of the recommendations and requirements, a summary of which appears below. Further evidence will be sought during the next inspection.

INSPECTION METHODS USED AT THE VISIT

Inspection of relevant part(s) of premises
Interview with senior staff member in charge
Interview with other staff
Discussion with children
Individual interview with a child
Visit foster/adoptive home
Visit lodgings
Interview foster/adoptive parent
Inspection of relevant records
Inspection of relevant policy/practice documents
Children's survey
Parent survey
Placing authority survey
Foster / adoptive parent survey
Staff survey

NO
YES
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
YES
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO

Date of Inspection
Time of Inspection
Duration Of Inspection

31/03/05
12:45
1

FINDINGS ON KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT ALL UNANNOUNCED, MONITORING AND FOLLOW UP VISITS

The following scale is used to indicate the extent to which standards have been met or not met by placing the assessed level alongside the phrase "Standard met?"

The scale ranges from:

4 - Standard Exceeded	(Commendable)
3 - Standard Met	(No Shortfalls)
2 - Standard Almost Met	(Minor Shortfalls)
1 - Standard Not Met	(Major Shortfalls)

"0" in the "Standard met?" box denotes standard not assessed on this occasion.

"9" in the "Standard met?" box denotes standard not applicable.

"X" is used where a percentage value or numerical value is not applicable.

(I). Inspector's assessment of the extent to which the requirements for consultation with children are being met.		
Key findings/Evidence	Standard met?	0
This standard was not inspected.		

(II). Inspector's assessment of the extent to which the requirements for complaints procedures for children are being met.		
Key findings/Evidence	Standard met?	0
This standard was not inspected.		

(III). Inspector's assessment of the extent of staff knowledge of the required response to allegations or suspicions of abuse of children (child protection and staff/carers reporting procedures).		
Key findings/Evidence	Standard met?	0
This standard was not inspected.		

(IV). Inspector's assessment of the adequacy of staffing at the time of the visit.		
Key findings/Evidence	Standard met?	0
This standard was not inspected.		
(V). Inspector's assessment of the extent to which any children and staff/carers seen are aware of individual children's plans (where applicable).		
Key findings/Evidence	Standard met?	0
This standard was not inspected.		

FINDINGS ON SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THIS VISIT

Requirements

FS26 – Immediate requirement in respect of insufficient secure storage and working space in Newark office.

Following internal moves in the building the fostering team have a much bigger office, this move took place in April 2004.

FS26 – Requirement to improve the accommodation used by the Short Breaks Team, specifically to make the building accessible to wheelchair users.

This team has now moved into a new office, on 3rd March 2004, at Station Road, Sutton in Ashfield.

FS15 – Requirement in respect of Schedule 1 matters.

Absence of recent photos – unable to update in respect of this issue.

Evidence re qualifications – All workers are qualified, and have all registered with the GSCC.

Evidence of References – A clear process is in place and all appointed staff have their referees telephoned as required by the policy.

CRB – All staff employed by the fostering service have CRBs, these are administered from West Bridgeford House, where a database is held which includes carers also.

FS30 – Panel to recommend approval rather than give final decision to carers –

Practice guidance which has been in place since 2003 requires this. Language and behaviour on the day of inspectors observing panel did not evidence this. This has been addressed via an article in the county fostering magazine regarding the role of panel; awareness raising through team management meetings and panel chairs meetings; and foster carer liaison committee.

Recommendations

FS4 – Carers, staff and management to declare any possible conflict of interest – unclear from report precisely what this refers to.

FS6 – ensure transport provided by carers is safe and appropriate to child's needs – A new policy has been produced with effect from July 2004. Leaflets are available in respect of choosing and fitting a child seat, summarising the law, and training is to be made available for staff and carers.

FS12 – carers to complete weekly diary/sanction sheets – This to be addressed by supervising social workers and monitored in supervision.

FS25 – Managers to sign off files as evidence they have been monitored – A system for auditing paper and electronic records is in place. 'Framework' information system set up and running from January 2005, which includes auditing process.

FS25 – Young people to be informed they can access files – This has been addressed through the commissioning teams, through joint training, and team manager days. Clear SW lead in the care planning process reinforced.

Additional Points

Registered Manager - Jane Austin has achieved NVQ Level 4 equivalent, Post Graduate Certificate in Management from Nottingham Trent University in autumn 2004.

Alison Shield fed back the view that overall this has been a good year for fostering. Maintained a significant proportion of children in own placements rather than agency placements. Improved rates of recruitment of black carers. The issue of low pay to short breaks carers has been addressed via use of the Choice Protects grant. A salaried carers scheme for family based short breaks has been introduced.

Agreed dates for inspection 17th, 18th, and 19th May 2005, Mark Ryder to lead and Jane Barton to second.

Pre inspection meeting to take place on 14th April at 12.00 at West Bridgeford House.

FOLLOW UP OF PREVIOUS REQUIRED ACTIONS FOR UNANNOUNCED, MONITORING AND FOLLOW UP VISITS

Requirements from last Inspection visit fully actioned?

NA

If No, the findings of this inspection on any Required Actions not implemented are listed below:

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Identified below are areas not yet addressed from the last inspection report which indicate a non-compliance with applicable Regulations or Standards under the Care Standards Act 2000.

No.	Regulation if applicable	Standard	Required actions	

Action is being taken by the Commission for Social Care Inspection to monitor compliance with the above requirements.

Compliance with Conditions of Registration (if applicable)

for Unannounced, Monitoring and Follow up Visits

(Establishments Registered as Children's Homes or Residential Family Centres, Independent Fostering Agencies or Voluntary Adoption Agencies only)

Providers and managers of registered services must comply with statutory conditions of their registration. The conditions applying to this registration are listed below, with the inspector's assessment of compliance from the evidence at the time of this Additional Inspection Visit.

Condition	Compliance	
Comments		

Condition	Compliance	
Comments		

Condition	Compliance	
Comments		

Lead Inspector	Jane Barton	Signature	_____
Second Inspector	_____	Signature	_____
Regulation Manager	Rachel Cook	Signature	_____
Date	_____		

FURTHER ISSUES RAISED OR DISCUSSED AT THIS VISIT

The following further issues, not already identified in this report, were raised with the inspector, identified by the inspector, or discussed at this visit, with the conclusions identified below.

Issues raised by children:

Issues raised by staff or carers:

Issues raised by inspector:

REQUIRED ACTIONS FOLLOWING THIS INSPECTION

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Identified below are the actions required following this Additional Inspection Visit, either outstanding from the previous inspection or identified subsequently or at this visit. Action is required on these areas within the given timescales in order to meet the statutory requirements under the Care Standards Act 2000, Children Act 1989, or applicable Regulations and National Minimum Standards.

No.	Regulation if applicable	Standard *	Requirement	

GOOD PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INSPECTION

Identified below are any additional areas arising from this visit which relate to the National Minimum Standards and are seen as good practice issues to be considered for implementation.

No.	Refer to Standard *	Recommendation Action

Note: Standard code is in respect of the relevant service; e.g.
BS = Boarding School, CH = Children's Home, etc

INSPECTOR'S DECLARATION

(where applicable)

Not applicable

Lead Inspector _____ Signature _____

Date _____

Public reports

It should be noted that all CSCI inspection reports are public documents.

PROVIDER'S RESPONSE

Registered Person's comments/confirmation relating to the content and accuracy of the report for the above inspection.

We would welcome comments on the content of this report relating to the Inspection conducted on 31/03/05 and any factual inaccuracies:

Please limit your comments to one side of A4 if possible

Action taken by the CSCI in response to provider comments:

Amendments to the report were necessary

NO

Comments were received from the provider

NO

Provider comments/factual amendments were incorporated into the final inspection report

NO

Provider comments are available on file at the Area Office but have not been incorporated into the final inspection report. The inspector believes the report to be factually accurate

NO

Note:

In instances where there is a major difference of view between the Inspector and the Registered Provider both views will be made available on request to the Area Office.

Please provide the Commission with a written Action Plan by 27 May 2005, which indicates how required or recommended actions and good practice recommendations are to be addressed and stating a clear timescale for completion. This will be kept on file and made available on request.

Status of the Provider's Action Plan at time of publication of the final inspection report:

Action plan was required

NO

Action plan was received at the point of publication

NO

Action plan covers all the statutory requirements in a timely fashion

NO

Action plan did not cover all the statutory requirements and required further discussion

NO

Provider has declined to provide an action plan

NO

Other: <enter details here>

NO

Public reports

It should be noted that all CSCI inspection reports are public documents. Reports on children's homes are only obtainable on personal application to CSCI offices.

Registered Person's statement of agreement/comments: Please complete the relevant section that applies.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Designation _____

Date _____

I Mr Stuart Brook of Nottinghamshire County Council Fostering Service am unable to confirm that the contents of this report are a fair and accurate representation of the facts relating to the inspection conducted on the above date(s) for the following reasons:

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Print Name _____

Signature _____

Designation _____

Date _____

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Commission for Social Care Inspection
33 Greycoat Street
London
SW1P 2QF

Telephone: 020 7979 2000
Fax: 020 7979 2111

National Enquiry Line: 0845 015 0120
www.csci.org.uk

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