



**Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board**

**Date: 15 February 2022**

**Title of report: Statement of Purpose for Children's Homes (Annual Report)**

**Purpose of report:**

This report and the associated documents provide an overview of the Statements of Purpose of the five local authority Ofsted registered children's homes. An Ofsted registered children's home is required to have a Statement of Purpose to comply with Children's Homes regulations.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	N/A
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</b>	N/A
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	N/A
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Tom Brailsford  03/02/2022
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cllr V Kendrick; Children's Portfolio holder.

**Electoral wards affected: N/A**

**Ward councillors consulted: N/A**

**Public or private: Public**

**Has GDPR been considered? Yes.**

The information in this report does not identify any details of individuals, other than professionals employed by the Council. Information contained in the five individual Statements of Purpose has been redacted to ensure the location of the homes is not available to the public.

## 1. Summary

This report gives an overview of the Statements of Purpose for the local authority three mainstream and two homes for children with a disability.

All children's homes are regulated by Ofsted, The Children's Home Regulations 2015 which includes nine quality standards is the regulatory framework which informs Ofsted inspections. The quality standards set out aspirational and positive outcomes, and the requirements which children's homes must meet to achieve the overarching outcomes.

Ofsted are required to inspect all children's homes at least twice per year; one of these inspections is a full inspection, following which in an overall judgement of the progress and experiences of children living in the home is made. The other inspection is generally an interim inspection. Inspection judgements/findings can include recommendations for improvement and /or compliance notices.

Currently the Ofsted judgments for the five homes ranges from Outstanding to Requires Improvement.

Each Children's home is required to have a Registered Manager; a Registered Manager of a Children's Home must be approved by Ofsted and pass a Fit and Proper person's interview. The local authority as a 'Provider' is also required to identify a Responsible Individual. The Service Director for Child Protection and Family Support, is currently the Responsible Individual for the local authority children's homes.

The information set out in a Statement of Purpose is essential to help inform placement decision making. A Statement of Purpose must outline the range of needs of the young people who the home provides care for, the home's ethos, the outcomes the home seeks to achieve, and the approach taken to achieve them.

The Statements of Purpose for two local authority homes for children with disabilities Elm Grove and Orchard View state,

- Elm Grove – provides medium to long term care for up to six children and young people with a physical or learning disability, complex needs and/or sensory impairment. The ages of children vary and are dependent on need, group dynamics and compatibility coupled with any presenting risks at the time of admission
- Orchard View – provides residential short breaks and provision for emergency support for young people aged up to 18 years who have physical disabilities, learning disabilities and / or sensory impairments. The home may only provide care and accommodation for up to 8 beds under short break arrangements. (A variation to the statement of purpose was recently made in respect of Orchard View to allow the home to accommodate a maximum of two mainstream children)

The Statements of Purpose for Woodlands children's home, Copthorne House state,

- Woodlands - provides residential care for up to three young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties aged between 12-17 years on admission.

- Copthorne - provides residential care for up to four young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties aged between 13-16 years on admission.

Like Woodlands the admission criteria for Copthorne is for young people who have been assessed as needing residential care due to them being unable to live within their own or foster families due to the breakdown in family relationships and/or where they are deemed to be at risk of significant harm.

The primary purpose of Copthorne and Woodlands is to keep young people safe, provide good quality care and support young people to achieve good outcomes. This includes

- Education
  - Contact and relationships with family and friends
  - Having good health
  - Accepting specialist help and support when its needed
  - Having hobbies and interests outside of home and school
  - Supporting young people to prepare for semi -independence or independent living.
- Healds Road – provides accommodation for up to four children and young people, aged between 11-17 years. The home provides short to medium term placements, primarily working with children and their families on a 12-week basis.

Whilst the primary aim of Healds Road is the same as Copthorne and Woodlands, Healds Road moved to operating a Multi-Systemic Therapy - Family Integrated Transition (MST/ITM) model in December 2021 and the homes' statement of purpose now reflects this.

The children and young people living at Healds Road are encouraged to participate in and complete a 12-week Dialectical Behavioural Therapy treatment programme. The home is supported by the Children's Service's Family support and Child Protection MST-FIT team. Whilst living in the home young people receive the residential element of the MST-FIT intervention, which supports a skill focused structured approach of working with young people. The aim is to ensure that young people are enabled and supported to move onto a successful and long-term placement, ideally with birth family, kinship carer or long-term foster carers.

- Magdale House - A new 4 bed mainstream local authority children's home is due to open in late spring/early summer. The home will have a Social Pedagogy ethos and approach based on a person and care centred value base and the principle of lifelong learning; to create a creative environment for children conducive to their well-being and learning, enabling them to develop their own resources and connect to society. The home will provide individual learning opportunities ('head, heart, and hands') to enable the children and young people to develop and achieve their own unique potential. The Statement of Purpose for Magdale House will reflect this approach.

The Statements of Purpose for Children's homes also set out how they meet the following,

- The arrangements for supporting the cultural, linguistic, and religious needs of the young people
- Consultation with young people about the care they receive - ensuring that their voice is heard and acted upon
- Equality, diversity, and children's rights
- Accommodation and location, - including Safe Area assessments
- The approach to the protection and safeguarding of young people, including bullying, missing, behaviour management.
- Care planning; the admission criteria, procedure, and process /or referral process and moving on from the home.
- Governance, the organisational structure, and details of the staff team, including the experience and qualifications of the staff.

Each children's home must also produce a Young Person's Guide which is available to all children. The guide supports the children who live in the home to understand the following:

- The Statement of Purpose.
- The care and support they will receive
- The day-to-day routines of the home
- The information which the home keeps on them and why, including who it might be shared with.
- Their right to access their case file.
- How to make a complaint.
- How to access an Advocate or Independent Visitor.
- How to contact the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

N/A

## **3. Implications for the Council**

### **3.1 Working with People**

N/A

### **3.2 Working with Partners**

#### **Our Key Partners are**

- Children's Social Care social work teams (Children in Care and Assessment and Intervention teams)
- Child Protection and Review Unit (Independent Reviewing Officers)

- Virtual School
- Placement support - Family Support and Child Protection
- SENDACT (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Assessment and Commissioning Team)
- The Youth Engagement Service
- The Children's Services Joint Commissioning Team
- Multi-systemic Team (MST) Family Support and Child Protection
- Looked After Children Nurses and Nurse Advisor for Children
- The Base (Drug and Alcohol Support Services)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs)
- Learning Disability Nurses, Dieticians, Occupational Therapists, Movement and Handling Advisors
- The Youth Justice Service
- West Yorkshire Police
- West Yorkshire Fire Service

### **3.3 Place Based Working**

N/A

### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

N/A

### **3.5 Improving outcomes for children**

This report is provided at the request of the Corporate Parenting Board to monitor the Statements of Purpose of the five Children's Homes run by the Council

### **3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions**

N/A

## **4. Next steps and timelines**

Statements of Purpose will be reported on annually

### **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That this report is noted

## **5. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

N/A

**6. Contact officer**

Sara Miles, Head of Homes for Children, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

**7. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

A redacted Statement of purpose for each Children's home is attached

**8. Service Director responsible**

Tom Brailsford, Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships.