

**ROTA VISITS BY MEMBERS TO CHILDREN'S ESTABLISHMENTS - MASTER COPY - 2016-2017**  
**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS**  
**April to November 2016**

<p><b>Bakers Way Respite House</b></p>	<p>3 visits since April 2016</p>	<p>The premises were clean and tidy with a pleasant atmosphere. Good state of repair and advised that there is an issue with the back fence, which they are awaiting a repair. There is also still an issue with moving the kitchen and a minor capital bid for this has been prepared. Staff had decorated the three residential bedrooms which look clean and welcoming. The fence has subsequently been fully repaired</p> <p>Spoke with 4 service users who were all complimentary and happy with the facilities and relaxed in this respite facility. Plenty of activities including swimming, bowling, trip to the beach and cinema in their own mini bus. Fire appliances checked and up to date.</p> <p>The facilities were very good overall. The downstairs lounge was comfortable and had a large television. All the downstairs bedrooms were well equipped and comfortable and there was a very nice play and activity area at the back of the home. The bathroom facilities on the ground floor were excellent with lifting gear to aid staff and service users. The upstairs facilities were very good.</p> <p>The kitchen area remains a little cramped and the stairs leading to the first floor made it impossible for children with physical and mobility disabilities to access the facilities on the first floor. The Bakers Way respite home needs a stair lift if it is to exploit its facilities to the full on both floors. Children in wheelchairs are still unable to access the respite facilities on the first floor (upstairs). A chair lift installed in one of the stairways would allow staff to cater for more children with physical disabilities. A minor capital bid has been submitted for some renovation works within Bakers Way, this includes relocating the kitchen enabling the soft play area to be moved downstairs, ensuring all children who visit are afforded the same access to resources. Built environment have confirmed that it is not possible for a stair lift to be installed. We have considered the installation of a lift but this would significantly reduce the available floor space in the lounge and the upstairs area that is also going to be converted to a lounge which currently houses the soft play area.</p> <p>The entrance to the home is very narrow and awkward for staff and service users and needs to be widened and made more accessible. Staff and service users have difficulty accessing the home via a very narrow front entrance. Staff wish to see the entrance to the respite home widened and made more accessibly, particularly for wheelchair users. A minor capital bid has been submitted for some renovation works within Bakers Way which includes the widening of the doorways for the new wheelchairs.</p> <p>Able to meet with three service users who had positive views about their treatment at the unit. Food and activities were praised as well as the quality of overnight care.</p>
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<b>Newbridge House</b>	4 visits since April 2016	<p>The unit is coping well with its six residents and is ensuring that its young people are monitored closely on first settling into independent living in the community.</p> <p>Staff respond positively to in-service training and believe they would benefit from the development of counselling skills. There are a couple of staff who have certified counselling skills and expansion of those skills across the staff cohort is being explored within the placements, residential and resource project board .</p> <p>Unrestricted wi-fi should be introduced to Newbridge House to demystify and normalise social media. Ongoing discussions are taking place with the ICT service to see if we are able to install wi fi.</p> <p>The premises were clean and had a pleasant atmosphere; they appeared to be in a good state of repair and no issues were raised.</p> <p>Spoke with 2 service users who both explained that they were happy and settled; neither had anything negative to say about the premises or staff etc.</p> <p>The interior of the home was bright and cheerful. The manager provided a tour of the building; there were no issues to report. The staff do what they can to brighten up the interior and the kitchen and lounge were excellent. The bathrooms and showers were in good condition too. Spoke to 2 young people and they appeared to be contented. All in all, there were no issues to report.</p> <p>Toured the facility; all of the residents were out during the afternoon. Advised that one of the residents had only just left and regularly visited; this person is doing very well.</p> <p>Recent turnover in clients and it is taking time for them to settle down, which is usual.</p> <p>The building was undergoing some redecoration.</p>
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<b>Sunnybank Complex Needs Unit</b>	4 visits since April 2016	<p>The appearance of the home was very good.</p> <p>Had the pleasure of meeting 2 of the 4 children residing there and were informed that they had enjoyed a trip to Pendine sands and Laugharne the day before. They said they found the visit very interesting and they appeared to be contented there.</p> <p>Evidence of good quality of care. A very informative visit. One client was at the residence and seemed to have a good rapport with the staff. The residence seems to have all it needs for the stay of its users.</p> <p>On visiting the home, two service users were present. Spoke to both service users present at length, one of which is very interested in politics – we suggested to the officer that they could investigate whether he could attend the youth council to observe to expand his experience. The youth council officer has been contacted to make engage with the young person and the youth mayor has been contacted to ask him to visit the unit and speak to the young people who are resident within to explain his role and that of the youth council and the influence they can have. The other service user was very interested in a career in law. Service users are helping to prepare food, if interested; one of them had helped to prepare the evening meal that day. We heard that a number of the fire doors had been damaged but had now been replaced.</p> <p>We were told that all 3 residents are settled.</p> <p>Staff feel they have the full support of BCBC both for staff and the children. Any problems they report are dealt with properly and promptly.</p>
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<b>Ty George (Independent Sector Home)</b>	Joined the rota in August	<p>The home was a spacious, detached house in a secluded area. We had a look around the home, which has 4 children resident. They also have a school room in the grounds, which is used by some of the children who do not attend school.</p> <p>The residents have an input into their activities, including helping with the cooking etc. They also influence the food they eat in regular house meetings.</p> <p>We spoke to one resident, who was very happy and was taking a day trip to Thorpe Park soon, organised by the home.</p>
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