

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
14 APRIL 2010**

SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF MORAY SUPPORTED LODGINGS PROJECT

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Children and Young People's Services Committee to scrutinise and note the inspection of Moray's Supported Lodgings Project by the Care Commission which was completed on 21 January 2010. A brief summary of the inspection report is provided at **APPENDIX 1** to this report.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the exercising of functions under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Children and Young People's Services Committee note and scrutinise the content of this report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Moray Supported Lodgings Service provides an Adult Placement Service to young adults in the Moray area. The service has been registered with the Care Commission since September 2007.
- 3.2 Adult Placement Carers are self employed and they are contracted to care for young adults in the adult placement carers' home, following detailed assessment processes.
- 3.3 The National Care Standards for Adult Placement Services describe adult placement carers as 'the person you go to stay with in the placement. The Adult Placement Carer is recruited and approved by the Adult Placement Service to provide support and care in his or her own home.'
- 3.4 The Adult Placement Worker is 'the worker employed by the Adult Placement Service to arrange, supervise and support your placement with the Adult Placement Carer.' In the Moray Supported Lodgings Project the roles are identified as follows: -
- Adult Placement Worker is known as the 'Supported Lodgings Link Worker'.
 - Adult Placement Carers are known as 'Supported Lodgings Providers', these are the service users supported by the Adult Placement Service.
 - Adults in placement are the young people receiving the support from the Supported Lodging Providers.

- The Moray Supported Lodgings Project provides support for the Supported Lodgings Providers.

3.5 The main aims of the service are 'to offer a safe, supportive and encouraging environment for ex looked after and accommodated young people to experience elements of independence and have a base from where they can make a successful transition to living independently in the community.'

3.6 Inspectors reported on two quality indicators and the evaluation for the Moray Project are as follows: -

- Quality of Care and Support Very Good
- Quality of Staffing Very Good

3.7 Inspectors report on these quality indicators using the six point scale: -

Excellent	Outstanding, sector leading
Very Good	Major Strengths
Good	Important strengths, some areas for improvement
Satisfactory	Strengths just outweigh weaknesses
Weak	Important weaknesses
Unsatisfactory	Major weaknesses

3.8 The full inspection report is available in the Member's Library.

3.9 There were no requirements or recommendations identified within the Inspection report. However the Supported Lodgings Project and the Authority will address together the areas for improvement identified within the Inspection report.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

Areas for improvement within this report will be addressed within the Throughcare and Aftercare Performance Improvement Plan.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no direct policy or legal implications associated with this report.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are no specific resource implications associated with this report.

(d) Consultations

Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, Rhona Gunn, Acting Principal Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing) and Katrina McGillivray, Senior Personnel Advisor have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.

Author of Report: Jennifer Gordon, Placement Services Manager
Background Papers: in Member's Library
Ref: HB757346

Moray Supported Lodgings Project Adult Placement Service

A brief summary of the Inspection report highlights the following: -

What the service does well

The service provides continuity of support to the Supported Lodgings Provider. The service has good communication links with the Throughcare - Aftercare Team in relation to the support of the Young Person who lives with the Supported Lodgings Provider.

What the service could do better

The service states that they must always consider new ways to recruit Supported Lodgings Providers. This would lead to the development of a consultation group to give the providers a greater say in the service.

What the service has done since the last inspection

The service has improved the documentation to provide information to the providers and the young person. They have also introduced the pre review forms which enabled various parties to provide their comments outwith the main review meeting.

Actions Taken on Recommendations Outstanding

1. It was recommended that the Supported Lodgings Service provides comprehensive Adult Protection training to its staff members. This has been done. National Care Standards, Adult Placement Services, Standard 5, Management and Staffing Arrangements.
2. It was recommended that the service develop a policy to ensure that there is no conflict of interest in the support provided to the young people and the Supported Lodgings Provider. A policy is now in place. National Care Standards, Adult Placement Services, Standard 5, Management and Staffing Arrangements.
3. It was recommended that the Adult Placement Service develops a User Participation Strategy. A draft policy is now available. National Care Standards, Adult Placement Services, Standard 5, Management and Staffing Arrangements.

Particular strengths of the project

1. During interview with the Inspector one of the new supported lodgings providers explained the process from enquiry to being approved and being matched with a young person. She explained that the matching process involves sharing information between the supported lodgings provider and the young person. Following matching processes a Placement Agreement is completed and signed by all parties. Including general details the agreement also identifies boundaries for the Young Person, Financial Contributions, Information about Reviews and the Responsibilities of all the parties.
2. Regular planning and formal reviewing mechanisms are held for the young person in placement and for the Supported Lodgings Providers. Those participating in the reviewing procedures are known in advance and involve the young person and their worker, alongside the Supported Lodgings Provider and their worker, with the manager of the service or senior manager when appropriate for formal review. Pre-Review forms are issued prior to the review

meeting to allow each party to consider and submit their views to the Supported Lodgings Link Worker.

3. Consistent with one of the recommendations from Inspection May 2009, a draft Participation Strategy has been developed. This explains how the service currently involves the Supported Lodgings Providers and the Young People in making decisions about the support that is provided and it identifies how the people being supported can be involved in improving the quality of the staffing.
4. A young person who had been previously part of the scheme was reported as to having been involved in reviewing the various forms.
5. The Supported Lodgings Project has produced two information booklets about the project. One booklet is aimed at the Young Person and provides details relating to a number of aspects that might impact on the Young Person within the Supported Lodgings Provision. This booklet has been produced in an easy to read format and also includes comments from young people who have been in Supported Lodgings. A second booklet is aimed at the prospective Supported Lodgings Provider and the format is Frequently Asked Questions.
6. To support understanding of the project existing or past Supported Lodgings Providers, and occasionally a young person who has been in the project, will visit prospective providers to answer questions.
7. Placements ending are more usually planned and Young People are offered support for a short period to help the transition into their own tenancy.
8. A central audit was conducted on the provider's policies and procedures relating to safer recruitment. This included guidance notes giving specific information on particular aspects such as Disclosure Scotland Procedures, registration checking, requesting a medical report etc. A number of staff files were viewed in order to assess how effectively the provider implemented safer recruitment. There was a system for the identification of staff training needs.

Areas for Improvement

1. The service intends investigating new methods of recruiting Supported Lodgings Providers and there is planning to develop a web site which will provide details about the Supported Lodgings Project. With increased providers might come greater option for a consultation group giving Supported Lodgings Providers a greater voice in the running of the service.
2. Within Inspection 2009 it was recorded that it was difficult to obtain the views of people who use the service due to the small number of supported lodgings providers and young people; this issue remains. The Inspector indicated that the service should continue to consider all opportunities for involvement.
3. In relation to future development the option of the Supported Lodgings Providers and Young People being involved in recruitment processes will be explored.

Conclusion

This service provides support to the Supported Lodgings Providers who in turn support the Young People. All have plenty opportunities to express how the service is supporting them and adapt to their changing needs.

Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action against this service since the last inspection.

Requirements

None identified at this inspection.

Recommendations

None identified at this inspection.

Evaluations

Current Grades

Quality of Care and Support	5	Very Good
Statement 1 5 - Very Good		
Statement 6 5 - Very Good		
Quality of Staffing	5	Very Good
Statement 1 5 - Very Good		
Statement 2 5 - Very Good		
Quality of Management and Leadership		Not Assessed

Grading History

5 Mar 2009 Announced		
Quality of Care and Support	5	Very Good
Quality of Staffing	4	Good
Quality of Management and Leadership	4	Good

Authority Commentary

This is an extremely positive report which acknowledges focussed practice and a number of strengths and key process. Opportunities for development will be progressed during the next period.