

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Potterspurty Lodge Children's Home: First Published Ofsted Report**

I am delighted to be able to share our first Ofsted Report for our Children's Home with you. I am sure that you will join me in being exceptionally pleased to learn that we have achieved a "Good" rating in all three areas of the report and therefore an overall rating of "Good". While the majority of our students attend the school as day students, we have an increasing number of students joining us in the residential setting, therefore it is important for all our Parents and Carers to receive a copy of this report. Inspectors have commented on the high quality of care, numerous opportunities, and strong partnerships that exist in the service alongside the care and development of each child as an individual.

The Children's Home received its Ofsted Registration in January 2021, before then we were inspected as a 38 Week Residential Special School. Under the leadership of Mr Chris Pearce (Registered Manager) and his leadership team of Dannie Roberts (House Manager), Robin Ackroyd (House Manager), and Marley Brittain (Maternity Cover House Manager) Inspectors commented that:

*"The registered manager is experienced and skilled. He has worked hard to improve the service. The manager has a clear understanding of the strengths and challenges for the service".*

*"Managers have ensured that staff understand the importance of seeing each child as an individual. This is done with great sensitivity, allowing children to flourish without feeling judged or discriminated against"*

Regarding the care of students, Her Majesties' Inspector commented that:

*"Children feel safe at this home. They have developed good relationships with staff. The quality of these relationships means that children have a sense of stability and security in the home. Children feel confident to share their views, wishes and feelings with staff."*

*"Children's views are gathered regularly. Children feel that they are listened to and valued. Children say that they can confide in staff. Children have nurturing and supportive relationships with staff, who connect with children through shared interests and activities."*

The report recognises that Mr Pearce and his team of Leaders, Team Leaders, and Residential Support Workers have worked relentlessly and with determination to ensure that our young people feel supported and safe in the home, and are encouraged to pursue their individual gifts and talents and all under the backdrop of the pandemic. Our young people will be proud and delighted that the Children's Home is "Good" and I know that you will join me in thanking Mr Pearce, his staff, our clinical team, and our wider staff team for all playing their part as a collaborative team in achieve this fantastic result.

I would in turn like to thank our Registered Individual, Mr Mark Cole, and our previous Regional Principal Mrs Helen Hoggins for all their guidance and support alongside our team of Local Authority and Social Care representatives who I know all work tirelessly for our young people to enable individuals to reach their potential every day.

I would also like to thank you as Parents and Carers, who have supported the Children's Home in all that we do and have aimed to achieve. This report is also a reflection of your numerous contributions and support.

The report acknowledges *"Children are well supported to see their family and other people who matter to them. Staff do all they can to ensure that visits and contact arrangements run smoothly and that children have good experiences."* Our Children's Home works in partnership with Parents/Carers and other stakeholders; hence to have this key aspect recognised by our lead Her Majesties Inspector as being child focussed and supportive of our families is incredibly rewarding.

We have a lot to be proud of from this report and we are delighted that we have been recognised for supporting our young people and for the care and support afforded to each individual. With any report there are always some points for development and Leaders have already formulated a post Ofsted development plan based on the aspects raised to continuously develop the service and raise outcomes further. Simple we intend to go from strength to strength.

I thank you all for your continued support of the Children's Home, its Leaders and the staff team that work with our residential students. It is not just greatly valued, but thoroughly appreciated; we look forward to continuing to support our student's care, development, and outcomes in the Children's Home.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Nimmo  
Principal



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