

# Corporate Parenting Panel

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Warwickshire County Council – Homes for Children Residential Homes update - January 2025

### Current position

WCC have approvals to deliver four children's residential homes. This model has altered slightly to respond to the changing needs of our children in care and to secure opportunities as they arose. To date there are three children's residential service offers across the County, these are delivered from five homes:

- **Home one – Cherry Tree, Stratford Upon Avon.**
- 1 x Registered Manager. Registered in 03/03/2023. Ofsted rated GOOD (30/05/2023)
- Provides a home for up to four children with emotional and behaviour needs
- The home is registered for children aged 8-14yrs
- The homes purpose is to support children reunify back to family or kinship carers.
- To date there have been four children who have lived in Cherry Tree. All four children have successfully transitioned from Cherry Tree back to home or family members.
- There are currently three children living in Cherry Tree.
- **Homes Two & Three** – Multi-home model, Acorn Lodge & Oak House, Leamington Spa.  
1 x Registered Manager.

Acorn lodge – Registered 22/05/2024. Ofsted rated GOOD (06/08/2024)  
Provides a home for up to two children with emotional and behaviour needs  
The home is registered for children up to 18yrs.  
There are currently two children living in Acorn Lodge.

Oak House – Pending registration (Ofsted visit planned for 22.01.25)  
Provides a home for up to four children with emotional and behaviour needs  
The home is registered for children up to 18yrs.

- **Homes Four & Five** – multi-home model, Beechwood & Silver Birch, Bedworth & Nuneaton.  
1 x Registered manager.

Beechwood - Registered 30/05/2025. Not yet received its first Ofsted regulation inspection.

This is a SOLO (one child) home.

The home is registered for children up to 18yrs.

There is currently one young person living in Beechwood.

Silver birch - Registered 02/01/2025. Not yet received its first Ofsted regulation inspection.

Provides a home for up to four children with emotional and behaviour needs

The home is registered for children up to 18yrs.

First young person currently transitioning from their current home

arrangement and looking to move into Silver birch by the end of next week (w/c: 13.01.25).

### **Future activity**

WCC have identified its fourth delivery provision (6<sup>th</sup> physical home) located in North Warwickshire. The proposed home will support up to four children with emotional and behavioural needs, however there is current consideration for this home to provide support for older children in care 14yr+ due to the challenges WCC experience in identifying suitable residential homes for this cohort.

The aim is to have the forth home operational by the end of 2025. The mobilisation of 'home four' will have met the recommendations of the initial business case developed in 2021, this therefore provides opportunity to think about the next steps.

There remains a projected need for residential homes to support some of Warwickshire's children in care. The local market provision has boomed, as has been seen in other authorities, with an increase from 12 homes in 2020 (when Cherry Tree project commenced) to 20 homes in 2025, with at least 5 more WCC are aware of.

Whilst sufficiency of local residential provision has improved, from 10% (5/53 children) in May 21 to 30% (24/78 children) the majority of local homes cannot meet the needs of our children. As at Jan 25 WCC had approx. 70% of children needing residential care living out of county, for some children this is appropriate however children placed out of county will experience significant disruption in other areas of their lives as a result.

The business case will identify the strategic approach to how WCC propose to continue to meet the needs of children who require residential care. The development of the business case will include systems thinking and collaboration with our Integrated Care Board (ICB) colleagues and local health partnerships and trusts. The business case should be completed by March 2025.