



**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
23 SEPTEMBER 2004**

SUMMARY OF ROTA VISITS AND REGULATION 33 REPORTS

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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Corporate Parenting Board of the process and findings of rota visits and Regulation 33 reports in relation to residential care facilities in Middlesbrough.

BACKGROUND AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

2. The Care Standards Act 2000 provides powers for regulations governing the conduct of establishments and agencies. Under this Act, Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations state that:
 - (1) Where the registered provider is an organisation or a partnership, the home shall be visited in accordance with this regulation by –
 - a) the responsible individual or one of the partners, as the case may be;
 - b) another of the directors or other person's responsible for the management of the organisation or partnership; or
 - c) An employee of the organisation or the partnership who is not directly concerned with the conduct of the home.
 - (2) Visits shall take place at least once a month and may be unannounced;
 - (3) The person carrying out the visit shall –
 - a) Interview, with their consent and in private, such of the children accommodated there, their parents, relatives and person's working at the home as appears necessary in order to form an opinion of the standard of care provided in the home;
 - b) Inspect the premises of the children's home, its daily log of events and records of any complaints; and
 - c) Prepare a written report on the conduct of the home.
 - (4) The registered provider shall provide a copy of the report required under (4c) to –
 - a) the Commission
 - b) the registered manager of the children's home
 - c) in the case of a visit under Paragraph (1) –

- (i) where the registered provider is an organisation, to each of the directors or other persons responsible for the management of the organisation; and
- (ii) Where the registered provider is a partnership, to each of the partners.

3. Middlesbrough Council's Corporate Parenting Policy (May 2001) states that, in respect of Placement and Accommodation (section 2.4)

“The Council will ensure that all appropriate inspections of children's homes are carried out, including rota visits by elected Members.”

REGULATION 33 INSPECTIONS

4. Five Rivers have in place local arrangements, which meet the requirements of the Children's Homes Regulations as detailed above. The organisation commissions two independent social workers to carry out the Regulation 33 inspection at all three houses. These inspections are carried out monthly and timely reports are produced. The Reports follow the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes and cover the following subjects:

- ◆ Admissions and Discharge
- ◆ Consultation and Support
- ◆ Health, Education and Personal Needs
- ◆ Bullying, Absences and Behaviour
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ Quality of Environment
- ◆ Privacy, Confidentiality and Respect
- ◆ Staff Performance
- ◆ Involvement and Inclusion
- ◆ Personal Needs and Support
- ◆ Management and Administration
- ◆ Children/Young People's Views

During each visit at least one child or young person is seen and spoken to about their experience of living in the house (if possible) and where permission is given, their rooms are viewed.

5. Copies of reports are sent to the Head of Children's Services and Service Manager Children Looked After within Social Services, to the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and to each of the houses so that the teams can draw up action plans in relation to any issues raised. Since July 2004, the reports have been accompanied by a Regulation 33 Response Form completed by the regional manager. This form details the actions to be taken in relation to any issues raised or recommendations and gives an overall comment on the outcome and findings of the inspection. The reports are also submitted to the Middlesbrough Council and Five Rivers Partnership Board for information.

6. The Regulation 33 process is well established within Five Rivers. Over recent months issues raised and recommendations for all three houses have been as follows:

HOLLYLODGE

- ◆ The staff group should examine practices for supporting young people leaving the home (July 04)
- ◆ No issues, keep up the good work (June 04)
- ◆ Sanction book needs to be updated to demonstrate that sanctions are appropriate and consistently and fairly applied (May 04)

FIR TREE

- ◆ A section of the woodwork on the porch is in need of repainting (July 04)
- ◆ All entries in the missing from placement book should indicate the duration in minutes and hours of the absence (June 04)
- ◆ Previous LAC review minutes in respect of child to be obtained from social worker and placed on file for reference (May 04)
- ◆ The curtain rail in a young person's bedroom needs reattaching and curtain needs to be re-hung (May 04)
- ◆ The missing section of the fall pipe needs to be replaced (May 04)

ROSECROFT

- ◆ All entries in the admissions book should be kept up to date (July 04)
- ◆ It would be beneficial to the young people's group for there to be a better balance of male and female staff at Rosecroft (July 04)
- ◆ It would be helpful if last review minutes in respect of young person were obtained from social services and placed on his file for reference (June 04)
- ◆ Records of emergency light tests to be kept up to date (June 04)
- ◆ The key to a young person's room need to be replaced (May 04)

7. The overall impression received from the Regulation 33 reports is positive and staff are described as helpful, co-operative and welcoming during the process.
8. Regulation 33 visits in relation to Gleneagles Respite Care services for children with disabilities are undertaken by resource managers within social Services who have no line management responsibility for the service. Similar to the reports for Five Rivers these are distributed to relevant managers and CSCI.

ROTA VISITS

9. Five elected Members have now been trained to undertake Rota Visits as follows:

Cllr. Jan Brunton	Gleneagles
Cllr. Eddie Dryden	Holly Lodge
Cllr John Jones	Substitute
Cllr. Frances McIntyre	Firtree House
Cllr Tom Mawston	Rosecroft

The training took place in March and July 2004 and Members have an agreed timetable of target months in which to make their visits. Those trained in March have carried out the required visits in conjunction with the independent

Regulation 33 Inspectors and those trained in July will commence in October as per the timetable. Any issues of concern have been discussed with the appropriate managers.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no financial or legal implications in this report. There are no specific ward implications; this report will be of interest to all Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board
- a). note the contents of this report in relation to Regulation 33 and rota visits
 - b). endorse the processes and procedures that ensure residential care in Middlesbrough meets prescribed minimum standards.

REASONS

11. The Council is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all children looked after by the Council and that their places of residence are fit for purpose and meet the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes (Department of Health 2002)

Children's Homes Regulations (Department of Health, 2001)

Five Rivers and Middlesbrough Council Partnership Board Protocol in Relation to Inspections carried out under Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001

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