

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD  
10 MARCH 2005**

**ROTA VISITS AND REGULATION 33 REPORTS**

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To provide the Corporate Parenting Board with a summary of comments and issues raised in Rota Visits and Regulation 33 reports, since the previous report in September 2004.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Residential accommodation for children and young people is highly regulated.
3. The Care Standards Act 2000 provides the power for the regulations, which have extended over recent years. The key areas covered by the regulations are:
  - 'fitness' of the organisation, management and staff to operate the residential accommodation (including financial details, training etc)
  - physical state of the accommodation
  - views of children, young people and families (including complaints, compliments etc)
4. To fulfil the regulations the premises must be visited monthly by someone independent of the immediate management of the Home. A report is completed and sent to CSCI (Commission for Social Care); the Home and those responsible for overall management of the Home.

5. These 'Regulation 33 visits' within Middlesbrough, take place at Gleneagles Resource Centre (respite unit for Children with Disabilities) and the houses managed by 5 Rivers (Holly Lodge, Fir Tree and Rosecroft).
6. The 'Regulation 33 visitors' for Gleneagles are managers within Children, Families and Learning, who do not work within the Children with Disabilities specialism.
7. The 'visitors' for the 5 Rivers Houses, are independent social workers who do not work for either the Council or 5 Rivers.
8. Rota visitors are appointed to each of the establishments in accordance with the Middlesbrough Corporate Parenting Policy (May 2001). The appointed members are:

Councillor Jan Brunton – Gleneagles  
Councillor Eddie Dryden – Holly Lodge  
Councillor Francis McIntyre – Fir Tree  
Councillor Tom Mawston – Rosecroft

## **REGULATION 33 REPORTS (SEPTEMBER 2004 – FEBRUARY 2005)**

### **Gleneagles**

9. The monthly visits have been completed in accordance with Regulations. Where possible young people and/or their families have been spoken to, regarding their views on the building and quality of service. The 'visitor' also observes staff working in addition to reading the log book and other documentation.
10. The reports have been consistently positive and reflect a Centre that is well managed and delivering a high quality service. Issues are addressed promptly and staff are pro-active in their work with families.

### **5 Rivers – Holly Lodge, Fir Tree, Rosecroft**

11. The Regulation 33 process is well established, and the final report now contains a response from the Regional Operations Manager, detailing management views or actions as required.
12. The Reports are consistently positive but some issues raised are:
  - Young people complaining about monetary sanctions eg repayment for damage from pocket money (Rosecroft December 2004)  
  
Response : staff can only withhold a percentage of pocket money
  - Front garden be cleared of litter (Rosecroft January 2005)  
  
Response : young people encouraged by staff to clear litter – ongoing

- Link Worker to contact Social Worker to obtain minutes of Review meeting (Fir Tree January 2005)

Response : actioned and completed

- Floor and desk in team room in need of attention (Holly Lodge January 2005)

13. The reports also contain a general commentary on staff morale and response. Where needed these have been positively addressed by Senior Managers.
14. The Regulation 33 visits are reported to the Middlesbrough Council/5 Rivers Partnership Board, where they are also discussed in detail.

### **Rota Visits**

15. Training of members to undertake visits, took place in 2004 and a schedule of visits has taken place during late 2004 and 2005 with particular 'topics' being addressed every month. The Councillor comments are responded to by the Manager, and the report forwarded to Head of Service for action if needed.
16. Issues and comments raised include:
  - Damage to leaded glass (Holly Lodge)
  - How reward systems are implemented (Holly Lodge)
  - Education statements would be helpful if on file (Gleneagles)
  - Good atmosphere (Fir Tree)
  - High level of involvement by young people (Fir Tree)

All issues have been addressed promptly when needed.

### **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS**

17. No specific financial or ward implications.
18. The regular reporting, illustrates compliance with the Care Standards Act 2000.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

19. That Corporate Parenting Board is asked to advise the Executive to note the contents of this report in relation to Regulation 33 and rota visits.

### **REASONS**

20. The Council is responsible in their role as Corporate Parents, for ensuring the welfare of children looked after and that their place of residence meet with National Minimum Standards.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes
- Children Homes Regulations 2001

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