

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD  
8 SEPTEMBER 2005**

**SUMMARY OF ROTA VISITS AND REGULATION 33 REPORTS**

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FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to report to Corporate Parenting Board on the process and findings of rota visits and Regulation 33 reports of Five Rivers, the providers of residential care services 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 persons 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 persons 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**

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. Some of the visits are announced and others unannounced to enable the person undertaking the inspection to get an accurate picture of how the home runs on an everyday basis. The Reports 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 and where permission is given, their rooms are viewed.

5. Copies of reports are sent to the Head of Vulnerable Children's Services and the Service Manager, Children Looked After, within Children, Families and Learning; 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. Whenever issues relevant to the Council are raised during the inspection, these matters are discussed at the Partnership Board and/or the Operational Meetings where Regulation 33 Reports are a standing agenda item.

6. The Regulation 33 process is well established within Five Rivers and runs smoothly. I have the opportunity to read the report produced for each home on a monthly basis and can address any matters arising with either the homes directly or where appropriate the Regional Manager. Where recommendations are made relating to actions of the Council, for example where relevant records are not available on the file in one of the homes, I ensure that the team manager is aware and ask that action be taken to provide the information as a matter of urgency.
7. Overall it is my observation, on reading the reports each month, that generally the findings of the inspections are positive. Good practice recommendations are made to promote the continued development of the service. Samples of these recommendations are as follows:

#### **HOLLY LODGE**

- ◆ That the link worker request from social services LAC review minutes and place them on file for reference (May 05)
- ◆ That the registered manager ensures that the bathroom is clean and appropriate advice is offered to relevant young person (May 05)
- ◆ That the registered manager should remind staff of the need for monthly summaries to be typed and placed on file within set time scales (June 05)
- ◆ All remaining lumps of toilet paper should be removed from the ceiling and the walls in the bathroom. The registered manager should ensure that any additional lumps of toilet paper found are removed immediately. (July 05)

#### **FIR TREE**

- ◆ All incidents of holding should be recorded in the restraint book. (May 05)
- ◆ Copy of the LAC review minutes should be requested from social services and placed on file. (June 05)
- ◆ Date of last fire drill should be entered on the safety checklist (June 05)
- ◆ Extinguisher tests must be carried out on a monthly basis. (June 05)
- ◆ Emergency light tests should be carried out on a daily basis (July 05)

#### **ROSECROFT**

- ◆ Young person should be given a welcome pack and have the complaints procedure explained to him (May 05)
- ◆ Next Reg 33 visit to be arranged at registered managers convenience (May 05).
- ◆ Discharge to be entered in admission and discharge book (June 05)
- ◆ Behaviour chart should be completed and correspond with other documentation (June 05)
- ◆ Next visit to be arranged at manager's convenience to discuss sanction records (June 05)
- ◆ No recommendations in July 05

8. Through the inspection process, areas of good practice are acknowledged and the inspectors make positive comments about their observations on the performance and attitude of staff, the interaction between the staff and children/young people and the general atmosphere in the home.
9. Regulation 33 visits in relation to Gleneagles Respite Care services for children with disabilities are undertaken by managers within Children, Families and Learning 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**

8. 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
9. Members have an agreed timetable of target months in which to make their visits and co-ordinate their visits with the personnel undertaking the Regulation 33 inspection in order to minimise the number of visits for inspection purposes. Members complete a visit sheet, which details their observations on the Homes and their views in relation to all aspects of the care provided. These are shared with the Registered Manager who has the opportunity to add his/her own comments. They are then copied to Jenni Cooke, Deputy Director, Head of Vulnerable Children who adds comments and makes any recommendations as required. Any issues of concern are 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 Corporate Parenting Board advises the Executive to:
  - 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.

## **REASON**

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

Children's Homes Regulations 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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