

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
12 October 2006

SUMMARY OF ROTA VISITS AND REGULATION 33 REPORTS

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Corporate Parenting Board of the outcomes of Rota Visits and Regulation 33 visits relating to Five Rivers and Gleneagles Resource Centre.

BACKGROUND

2. The Care Standards Act 2000 provides the legislative framework for Rota Visits and Regulation 33 visits. The Act stipulates that:
 - The home shall be visited by someone independent of the direct management the home.
 - Visits shall be at a minimum monthly and can be unannounced.
 - The person undertaking the visit must:
 - ❖ Interview any child accommodated in the home and any staff present, to form an opinion on the standard of care.
 - ❖ Inspect the premises; the daily log of events and any record of complaint.
 - ❖ Complete a written report.
3. Middlesbrough Councils Corporate Parenting Policy (May 2001) states that ‘the Council will ensure all appropriate inspections of children’s homes are carried out, including rota visits by Elected Members’.

REGULATION 33 VISITS

4. Five Rivers as the providers of residential childcare, have commissioned two independent Social Workers to undertake the Regulation 33 inspections, monthly. The reports are circulated to the Commission for Social Care Inspection; Head of Vulnerable Children Services; Service Manager CLA and to the Manager of the home.
5. Identified actions are progressed by the Manager and Operational Manager within Five Rivers. The outcome of the reports are also discussed at the Middlesbrough Council/Five Rivers Partnership Board and operational meeting.
6. The reports contain detailed actions and 'good practise' recommendations as appropriate. Overall the reports from September 2005 – September 2006 have been positive and reflect a high standard of care.
7. Sample of recommendations/comments:

Holly Lodge

September 2005	'ensure fire extinguisher tests are carried out monthly'
October 2005	'both young people expressed satisfaction with their placements'
January 2006	'menus should reflect young people being home for lunch'
Mach 2006	'overall I feel Holly Lodge is providing a caring environment for young people'
July 2006	'attention to external paintwork required'
September 2006	'obtained LAC Review minutes in respect of a particular child'

Fir Tree

September 2005	'duration of missing from placement should be recorded in the appropriate book'
November 2005	'one young person comments about another – "annoying and loud" but deals with it by going to peace in his own room'
January 2006	'ensure CSCI contacted when a young person arrested'
March 2006	'manager to ensure evacuation procedures displayed in the kitchen'

June 2006	young person comments “you can have a laugh with staff”
September 2006	‘front garden needs attention, encourage young people to commit to regular meetings’
Rosecroft	
October 2005	‘photographs should be taken for files’ (followed up in November 2005)
January 2006	‘young person showed me their room, having been praised for tidying it the previous day’
February 2006	‘manager to ensure litter removed from the gardens’
April 2006	‘young people to add their comments in sanction book (followed up in June 2006)’

Gleneagles

There is a rota of ‘Regulation 33 visitors’ which includes the Head of Vulnerable Children; Head of Capital and Assets (CFL), Education Psychologist and other managers not directly involved with the service. This allows for independence in the inspection role.

The reports are positive and reveal a service valued by parents and other professionals.

Sample of comments/actions

October 2005	‘oven door needs report, good rapport between young people and staff – ‘in tune’!
December 2005	‘system to record compliments to be established. Shower faulty’
February 2006	‘happy relaxed family atmosphere at teatime’
May 2006	‘light and sound room a particular attraction’
June 2006	‘external paintwork in need of repair’
August 2006	‘CCTV in need of repair’

ROTA VISITS

- There have been some visits over the past year, but these have been irregular. Members complete a visit sheet, which the home managers respond to. These are

then forwarded to the Head of Vulnerable Children for action if needed. Overall the reports have been positive.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no financial, legal or Ward specific implications.
10. The report shows Middlesbrough Council is fulfilling its statutory duty in relation to Children Looked After.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the information in relation to Regulation 33 and rota visits.

REASONS

12. The Council is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all Children Looked After and that their places of residence meet the Minimum Standards for Children's Homes.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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