

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
5th MARCH 2009**

**SUMMARY OF REGULATION 33 REPORTS
JANUARY 2008 – DECEMBER 2008 &
UPDATE ON ROTA VISITS**

**COUNCILLOR MIKE CARR
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Corporate Parenting Board of the outcomes of Regulation 33 visits to Five Rivers and Gleneagles Resource Centre and to provide an update on the situation regarding rota visits.

BACKGROUND

2. The Care Standards Act 2000 provides the legislative framework for Regulation 33 visits. The Act stipulates that:
 - The home shall be visited by someone independent of the direct management of 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 complaints.
 - Complete a written report.
3. Middlesbrough Council's Corporate Parenting Policy (Updated January 2008) 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. As the partnership providers of Residential Care in Middlesbrough, Five Rivers have commissioned independent social workers to carry out Regulation 33 visits on a monthly basis. Completed reports are forwarded to OFSTED, the Executive Director Children Families & Learning, the Deputy Director Safeguarding, the Service Manager, Specialist Services and the Manager of the home. The reports cover the following subjects:
 - Admissions and discharge
 - Consultation and support
 - Health, Educational and Personal needs
 - Bullying, Absences and Behaviour
 - Health and Safety
 - Quality of environment/Care
 - Privacy, Confidentiality and Respect
 - Staff Performance
 - Involvement and Inclusion
 - Management and Administration
 - Children and Young People's views

The Every Child Matters Outcomes are addressed in the body of the report.

5. It is recognised there has been a lapse in reporting to the board and therefore this report covers the period January –December 2008. Identified actions are progressed by the Management within Five Rivers and Gleneagles. The reports contain information relating to the admission and discharge of young people, consultation and support, and meeting the needs of young people against the Every Child Matters outcomes
6. When reading the reports, the general findings of the inspections are positive. Recommendations are made on a monthly basis to promote the continued development of the services. A sample of the comments contained within the reports is as follows:
7. **FIRTREE**
 - One young person chose her own college course and successfully completed the course, having gained her EDEXCEL level 2 BTEC First Diploma in Art and Design.
 - One young person made housing applications with the encouragement and support of staff at Firtree and the Leaving Care Team.
 - No recommendations – well done again!
 - Having seen the young people's files, I am aware that the staff strongly encourage the young people to attend and contribute to their LAC reviews.
 - I am satisfied that staff at Firtree make every effort to help the young people in their care to develop their skills for independence.
 - Health and Safety checks are formally conducted on a monthly basis and fire regulations are adhered to.

8. **HOLLY LODGE**

- I am satisfied that the staff at Holly Lodge facilitate, encourage and support the young people in achievement and economic well being. This seems to be at the very heart of the culture within Holly Lodge.
- Staffs' intention is to prepare young people for independence. They treat each young person as an individual and work at their pace.
- No recommendations – well done again!
- An independent living programme is being drawn up with two young people.
- Staff encourage young people to be involved in menu planning, food shopping, personal shopping, choosing bedroom décor and planning celebrations, outings and activities.

9. **ROSECROFT**

- Every effort is made to encourage the young people to attend school. There is much evidence of contact with Education providers to find solutions and resolve any difficulties.
- All of the young people have signed an on-line safety agreement in relation to internet access.
- Young people said they feel involved in decision making by attending their LAC reviews and the young people's meeting. They are also able to discuss issues with the staff.
- Young people stated the staff help them to move to independence by helping them to budget, household tasks, helping with laundry.
- Residents stated they get on well with staff, they like Rosecroft.

10. **GLENEAGLES**

- Gleneagles has recently received an outstanding Ofsted inspection and I can clearly see why. Well done to all concerned. (Jan 08)
- Gleneagles continues to provide an excellent service.
- Staff are warm and welcoming to the young people, who were clearly happy to be there.
- Staff should be congratulated on providing a high quality service throughout the major building works.
- All care plans ensure children and young people have the opportunity to contribute to those plans and participate in reviews.

ROTA VISITS

11. The Deputy Mayor invited Elected Members to express an interest in undertaking rota visits in 2007. Seven elected Members expressed an interest, one of whom had already received training on the role. A further five elected Members undertook the necessary training in October 2008 and an additional training session was provided for those Members who will visit Gleneagles. Rota visits have now recommenced but as few visits have been completed, more detailed information on the outcomes will be available in the next Regulation 33 report.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report. The report demonstrates Middlesbrough Council is fulfilling its statutory duty in relation to ensuring that accommodation provided to Children Looked After is of the highest possible standard.

RECOMMENDATION

13. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advises the Executive to note the information relating to Regulation 33 and rota visits.

REASONS

14. It is important that elected members are aware of and approve this aspect of work in order that they can effectively fulfil their responsibilities as Corporate Parents in ensuring that the welfare of all Children Looked After and their places of residence meet the Minimum Standards for Children's Homes.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. The following background papers were used in preparing this report:
 - Regulation 33 Reports relating to Five Rivers and Gleneagles

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