

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## Corporate Parenting Board

### SUMMARY OF REGULATION 33 REPORTS JANUARY 2010 – DECEMBER 2010 AND UPDATE ON ROTA VISITS

**Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr**  
**Executive Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings**

**18 January 2011**

---

#### 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.

#### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)   
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards   
Non Key

#### DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent   
Urgent report

If urgent, please give full reasons.

## **BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

5. 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.
6. 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**

7. As the partnership providers of Residential Care in Middlesbrough, Five Rivers have commissioned independent social workers to carry out monthly Regulation 33 visits. Reports are forwarded to Ofsted, the Executive Director of Children, Families & Learning, the Deputy Director of Safeguarding, the Service Manager, Specialist Services and the Manager of the Home. The reports cover the following subjects:
  - Being Healthy
  - Staying Safe
  - Engaging and Achieving
  - Making a Positive Contribution
  - Achieving Economic Well-Being
  - Health and Safety
  - Administration
  - General Management of the Home
8. All areas are graded using the Ofsted gradings of:

Outstanding	4
Good	3
Satisfactory	2
Inadequate	1
9. It is recognised there has been a lapse in reporting to the Board and therefore this report covers the period April – September 2010. Any 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.
10. When reading the reports, the general findings of the inspections are positive.

11. The reports contain a running overall score for the Home and the Inspector identifies any actions that need to be addressed which emerge from a narrative section within each report.

## **FIR TREE**

12. This Home has a running average score of 3.05 out of a possible 4; using the Ofsted grading, the Home would be assessed as “good”, consistently demonstrating that the performance standards are met across outcomes and also demonstrating good standards of practice.
13. Areas for action have included:
  - Ensuring all young people are registered with a dentist and optician
  - Repairing the sanctions record
  - Briefing young people regarding their rights to access records
  - Addressing outstanding repairs
  - Expanding Equality and Diversity provision.
14. The Home has excelled at:
  - Multi agency working, particularly risk assessments.

## **HOLLY LODGE**

15. This Home has a running average of 3 out of a possible 4, again the grading would be assessed as “good”.
16. Areas for action have included:
  - Maintaining up-to-date Individual Personal Health Plans
  - Developing Equality and Diversity provision
  - Clear procedures when staff are unable to accompany a young person in custody.
17. The Home has excelled at:
  - Helping young people finish educational courses
  - ‘Life appreciation’ – outstanding practice
  - Responding well to safeguarding issues
  - Addressing risk-taking behaviours.

## **ROSECROFT**

18. Over the reporting timeframe the Home has had a maximum of one occupant and has maintained a running average of 3 out of a possible 4. The grading would be assessed as ‘good’.

19. Areas for action have included:

- Ensuring fire doors close properly
- Developing its current Equality and Diversity provision
- Reviewing privacy policies
- Focusing young people's meetings on their concerns.

20. The Home has excelled at:

- Striking a good balance between the need to keep young people safe and maintaining a relaxed and homely environment.
- Administrative systems
- Pre-admission planning
- Holistic approach to the needs of young people.

## **GLENEAGLES**

21. Regulation 33 visits have been undertaken on a monthly basis by middle managers within the Safeguarding Service. The visits consider and report on:

- The building
- The staff
- Children and young people
- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Achieving Economic Well-Being
- Comments, Compliments and Complaints
- Details of visit
- Action Plan

22. The reports are thorough and positive, and any corrective actions have an identified responsible officer and timescales for completion.

## **ROTA VISITS**

23. 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.

24. Rota visits have now recommenced, during the period April to September there were two rota visits to Fir Tree House in April 2010 and August 2010; two visits to Holly Lodge in April 2010 and September 2010; Rosecroft did not have a rota visit. Gleneagles had not had any rota visits over this time period.

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

25. 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**

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

## **REASONS**

27. 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**

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

**Author: Neil Pocklington, Deputy Director, Safeguarding**  
**Tel No: 01642 728040**

---

*Address: PO Box 69, Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1EL*  
*Website: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk>*