

Children, Young People and Families



Corporate Parenting Board

Members Visits to Children's
Homes

Wednesday 26th June 2013



Corporate Parenting

- “As the Corporate Parent of Children in care we have a special responsibility for their well being. Like any good parent, it should put it’s own children first. That means being a powerful advocate for them to receive the best of everything and helping them to make a success of their lives” (DCSF)
- The local authority must have the same interest in the progress and attainment of looked after children as a reasonable parent would Have for won children



Role of Elected Members

- All Elected Members are Corporate Parents
- Would this have been good enough for my child?
- Councillors have no greater responsibility than when they as corporate parent
- The Corporate Parenting panel have specific responsibilities



Children's Homes Regulations 2001

Management of Homes-Regulation

33

Where the registered provider is an organisation the home shall be visited in accordance with this regulation

Visits shall take place at least once a month and may be unannounced

The person carrying out the visit shall-

- a) Meet with children accommodated in the home
- b) Inspect the premises of the Children's Home
- c) Prepare a report



Purpose of Regulation 33 Visits

- Improve services for vulnerable children and adults
- Enables visitors to discharge their 'corporate parent' responsibility and be involved in the social care agenda
- Undertaken by Senior Manager of the City Council and members
- To complement the Ofsted inspections
- Providing a sense of what it is like to live in a children's Home



Objectives of Regulation 33 Visits

- Meet statutory requirement under the Children's Homes Regulation (2001)
- To extend the scope of the visit to look at specific issues (themes) in details
- To make a significant contribution to quality residential care for young people
- Monitoring the care provided and informing those responsible of the issues that need to be addressed



Role of the Visitor

- Look at the conduct of the home rather than its implementation of policy and procedure, guidance and regulations
- Eg exploring the culture, atmosphere, experience of living in, feeling, daily life, ambience, mood, spirit, regime, organisation and behaviour
- Report on how it feels to live in that home every day and how well the home is meeting the needs of the young people living there



Role of the Visitor

- They should hold no allegiance to adults who work in the home
- Role is to report on the quality of care
- To ask questions and explore the way the home is run
- The question that needs to be answered about every aspect of life in the Children's Homes is: how does it serve the interests of children and young people?

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The Key Points of Regulation 33 Visits and Guidance

- Visits should be monthly (Rota)
- Visits should be unannounced
- A written report of the visit is required
- The visitor should be given access to the Regulation 33 reports and the home's responses
- Visitors should always report on their observations of children/young people



Preparing for Regulations 33 Visit

- Read the statement of Purpose of Children's Home's you visit to get to know the function of the home
- Read previous Regulation 33 reports and Registered Managers' responses to pick up any previous concerns
- Read the previous Ofsted inspection reports
- Note any Ofsted 'significant concerns' or any previous requirements not resolved
- Enquire about progress on these and note accordingly



Preparing for Regulation 33 Visit-continue

- Find out the home's usual routine, so that you can choose a time to visit when the young people are around (eg. What time the young people arrive from school)
- Ensure you carry your identity badge when identifying yourself to staff as the Councillor undertaking a Regulation 33 visit.
- To assist with all preparation issues, allow yourself more time to cover these on your first visit



Areas to Cover at Each Visit

- Physical condition of the house
- Health of the young people
- Education or training of young people
- Positive activities and involvement
- Transitions or leaving care
- Positive activities and involvement
- Complaints
- Staff recruitments, training and support



Do's

- Ask questions of the young people, find out about their education, health, living in the home, whether they get involved in positive activities and being prepared to live independently
- Speak with the staff, find out what it's like to work there, ask about the young people
- Have a look in all the rooms (children's bedroom only with their permission) inspect the physical condition of the home
- Give your feedback to the Manager to complete the report
- Approve the report once received and forward to Corporate Parenting Officer Lorna Tull



Don't

- Be on own with any child or young person
- Don't go into young people's bedroom without their permission
- Worry about it, you will be support at all times.

Elected Member visits to Children's Homes report

Name of establishment	
Address	
Name of registered manager	

Name of Elected Member	
Date and time of visit	
Duration of visit	
Date report sent to Registered Manager	

Name of person in charge at time of visit	
Names of other staff on duty	
Number of staff spoken to.	
Number of young people present at time of visit	
Number of young people spoken to.	
Initials of young people spoken to.	

Has the previous report been viewed? Yes

No

It is not envisaged that each area for consideration will be reported on at each visit, however if there were specific actions for an area previously it would be useful to revisit this area.

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p>Physical condition of the house</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's the general state of the home?• Have children personalised their rooms?• Is there a welcoming area they can entertain visitors?• Are residents able to (with supervision where appropriate) able to use the kitchen to make snacks, drinks, meals etc?• Does it feel like a home, rather than an institution?		
<p>Health of the young people</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is exercise promoted with the young people?• Are staff being proactive in promoting healthy lifestyles for young people?• Are young people supported to eat healthily?• Are young people given advice and support about relationships and sexual health?• Are young people given advice and support about smoking, alcohol and drugs.• How is young people's emotional health supported?• Do the young people feel enough is being done to keep them healthy?		

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p>Education or training of young people</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all young people have a school place? • If a young person isn't attending education for some reason, what is being done to make sure they receive some continuity of education? • What practical arrangements are made for study and homework, are there books available in the home? • How is good performance at school encouraged and rewarded in the school? • Do staff attend open evenings etc where appropriate? • Do staff explore ideas about what young people would like to do when they leave school? • Do staff organise trips out or resources to help with course and school work? • Are the young people encouraged to use the library? 		
<p>Positive activities and involvement</p> <p>You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of activities are available for the young people to access? • What activities do young people currently access? • Do staff take part in activities with the young people? • Are young people supported to engage in life in their local community? • Are the young people supported to get involved in volunteering? • Do the young people take part in participation activities provided by WCC? • Are any of the young people involved with the CiCC • Do all young people attend the young people's meetings? • Do the young people feel they have any barriers to accessing positive activities? 		

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p style="text-align: center;">Transitions or leaving care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the young people been given support in developing independent living skills? (eg budgeting, cooking, using public transport etc) • Are young people supported to get involved in work experience? • Are young people aware of where to go for help and support after they leave the home? • What support does the home offer the children after they leave? • Are young people supported with preparation for interviews? • How do the young people feel about living independently? • Are the young people feel encouraged and supported to attend further / higher education? 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Positive activities and involvement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of activities are available for the young people to access? • What activities do young people currently access? • Do staff take part in activities with the young people? • Are young people supported to engage in life in their local community? • Are the young people supported to get involved in volunteering? • Do the young people take part in participation activities provided by WCC? • Are any of the young people involved with the CiCC • Do all young people attend the young people's meetings? 		

AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION	THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTED ACTIONS	HAVE ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT BEEN MET?
<p style="text-align: center;">Complaints</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the young people know how to make a complaint? • Do they know how to access the advocacy service? • Do they feel confident in being able to make a complaint? 		
<p>Staff recruitment, training and support.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You could consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there regular team meetings timetabled so that all possible staff can attend? • Do staff feel supported by management? • Do staff have positive and appropriate training opportunities? • Do staff confirm that supervision is regular, structured and valued in the home? 		
<p>Any specific issues raised by young people?</p>		
<p>Any specific issues raised by staff?</p>		

Was there anything on this visit that raised particular concern?	
Was there anything was on this visit that was particularly positive?	
Any further comments?	

Signed

Date.....