

Regulation 44 Summary Report

Period Covered:	June – August 2017
Number of reports reviewed:	9
Dates of visits:	Furze House- 14 th June, 12 th July, 23 rd August Westminster House- 13 th June, 12 th July, 23 rd August Walnuts- 8 th June, 14 th July, 23 rd August

All the visits to date have been announced. Unannounced visits will be included in the visiting schedule from September 2017.

Introduction

This report is based on the findings from the Regulation 44 visits to the Walnuts, Furze and Westminster children's homes. This report is designed to provide readers with a summarised account of:

- the quality of care young people receive and the impact of this on them
- our conclusions on the extent to which children are appropriately safeguarded and that their welfare is being promoted

Quality and Impact of Care

Children were observed as being relaxed and comfortable within the home and with staff. Children were observed being treated as an individual and offered choices and responding well to this. Visits all reflect that young people engage in fun activities that they choose or are chosen based on their known preferences.. Staff provided regular routines, which help the children feel safe. Where behaviour was noted to be significantly challenging, staff were committed to understanding the child better to reduce incidences and increase the activities that they enjoy.

Targets were available on most files and evidence was available of children's progress toward them. Where it was noted that a child's progress was not evident in relation to their targets and that another child had no clear targets, the home are taking action to address this.

One example of good practice includes a child contributing to their file and having their own parallel file which uses the best communication methods for them. Another good example is the 'Movement and Reiki' sessions delivered in one home. A child spoken to expressed that he enjoyed these sessions very much and staff reported that they felt the children really enjoyed and benefitted from this activity.

To further strengthen the strong leadership provided by managers, one manager would benefit from reflective supervision from someone with experience of managing children's homes or disabled children's social care.

No Ofsted inspections have taken place during this period and the Regulation 44 visits report that actions required from previous inspections.

Safeguarding

Each report has concluded that children are being appropriately safeguarded.

Visitors were able to see the safeguarding process in action when a member of staff observed marks on a child's face and reported this to the social worker and copied the information to the registered manager and deputy.

Concern was expressed about one child who the visitor considered as being potentially vulnerable to exploitation, especially when visiting family. Although the visitor felt the home staff responded appropriately, it was felt that a broader multiagency response was needed to ensure they were effectively safeguarded. A meeting has since been held and it is evident that the concerns are reducing and the young person is responding more positively to the strategies put in place by the home.

Report completed by: Valerie Tulloch
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Date: 31st August 2017