

Regulation 44 report

The Independent Person's report

Unique reference number of children's home: SC037521

Liberty House- announced visit.

Liberty House (LH) provides planned short break overnight respite care seven days a week for up to eight children, aged between 8 to 18 years, of either gender who have physical or sensory disabilities, complex health needs and challenging behavior as a result of their disability.

There is provision to also offer on an emergency basis care to a young person. This bed is currently in use.

LH provides support under S.17 of the Children Act to young people who stay for less than 75 days. Young people are accommodated under S.20 if they spend more than 75 days in the unit.

Name of person completing the report:

Independent Person Regulation 44- Kay Garvey – Independent Reviewing Officer- Foster Carers

Date of visit:

Announced 17.1.17. Please note the last planned visit on 11th December to coincide with the young people Christmas party didn't take place nor did any other visit during December 2016. The Independent Visitor wasn't available as had taken unexpected leave in December. Therefore no inspection December 2016. Last inspection 24.11.16

General Issues

This was an announced visit. Time of visit 11am – length of visit two and half hours.

During the visit on 17.1.17 I spent time:-

- Short discussion with D.H – Unit Manager
- Looking at records
- Short discussion with staff on duty

Staff Present over the time of the visit.

DH- Unit manager

Marie Traynor- Senior

Marianne Deputy Manager - In supervision with Nicky Horsby

Vicky Battersby – chairing a meeting re a young person using LH- meeting in the Jubilee Room with professionals and family

Domestic staff – two

Use of the emergency bed

The emergency bed is being used by a young person A.C. This young person was previously placed with foster carers approved by an Independent Agency. The young person has been visiting LH over a period of time. At the time of the last inspection visit the unit manager had met with the foster carers. This young person's placement at LH is a planned arrangement. Placed on 16.1.17 the day before this visit. The young person has a Looked After status. This placement appears to have been made as no other placement could be identified, Foster Carers having given notice to the local authority of their wish to end the placement. This is a planned use of the emergency bed.

In addition to this young person a second young person with a Looked After status S. P. has been placed at L.H. Placed on 13.1.17 from school. This young women's long term foster placement with local authority foster carers has come to an end when her carer gave notice to the local authority to end her placement. The circumstances surrounding the ending of this placement are known to the Independent Visitor whose primary role is in respect to the review of local authority foster carers. This young person has previously lived in a family setting.

Discussion with staff on duty reflects their understanding that S.P. requires an increased level of support in respect to personal care and that a ratio of 2:1 staffing is to be provided. I am aware of the potential in respect to the making of allegations by the young person and would endorse the increased level of staffing in respect to personal care.

Previous Actions from the last Regulation 44 inspection visit

Managers are required to evidence actions completed and/or planned in response to the recommendations made by the Regulation 44 Visitor.

These are the actions from the visit dated the 24.11.16. This is the status of the actions from the submission of the last report. Within this report I will comment on any actions that have not been progressed or any that have been implemented since the last report.

Note- these actions are taken directly from the previous report.

Issues	Actions by relevant Person	Timeframe
1. That there is consideration for some system of keeping personal items those children can identify as theirs in the building.	Progress in this area is slow but progressing. Staff continue to promote the use of the boxes at CIN meetings.	<u>Update</u> This piece of work to personalise the experience of young people accessing LH is ongoing. Personal items being brought in to the building for young people is still in

		progress. In some cases children will bring certain items with them when they stay.
2. All recording must be consistent and in line with the recording policy and subject to Quality assurance by a senior.	Embedding this in practice.	<p><u>Update</u></p> <p>All recordings are consistent in this inspection and have been subject to quality assurance by a senior manager within agreed time scales and in line with policy. All incidents, violence to staff and use of a restraint are now recorded individually when they form part of one event. Evidenced in this inspection.</p> <p>I continue to recommend that all reports are signed off by hand to further evidence the authenticity of the report being produced. Particularly in respect to a significant incident-see number 153 report noted in this inspection</p>
3. Creation of a Facebook Page	The development of this is ongoing, a member of staff has been tasked to take this forward	<p><u>Update</u></p> <p>Ongoing discussions with members of the I.T department regarding the details of how either a webpage or Facebook account could be implemented, to be overseen by LH staff are ongoing.</p> <p>Email from Richard Fisher deputy manager</p>

		<p>10.12.16 to update- S. R. has been working with our IT department and has had a number of meetings with them exploring options as to how best to progress our needs. There has been some resourcing issues We will both be meeting with someone from IT and the media team within the next few weeks with a view to be up and running within the next couple of months .</p>
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Update of actions from last month- To be completed by Registered manager/Service Manager-

Emergency bed/Lac

I have provided short break for two LAC young people under section 20(4) of short break Legislation. Under this section a child may be provided with accommodation with range of providers which exceed timescales outside of regulation 48 guidance. I.E for longer than 17 days.

A.C who was already accessing Short break was placed in the emergency bed on 17th January and was and is able to stay at a short break provision for longer than the 17 day period, which we have also applied to the young person (S.P). Equally young person (S.P) who accessed short break on the 13th January after having a planned visit on the 10th January, again as the guidance states, can reside in a short break provision for a period exceeding that of a child where regulation 48 applies.

The planned short break for (S.P) was to stay no longer than 17 days, however, following legal guidance it was equally appropriate to place this child in the emergency bed while providing a longer term short break for A.C - i.e 17 days. The update to S.P placement is that they have been offered a new long term placement starting on Monday 30th January- staying within the 17 day timescale. (Young person S.P was supported to move by Liberty staff on the agreed date of the 30th January).

R.L

Following concerns regarding behaviour of young person R.L a TAC meeting was held on Friday 27th January with Camhs present. The aim of the meeting from Liberty perspective was to identify if strategies could be adopted to limit the locking of doors, the hiding of pens and further manage sexualised behaviour young person is currently displaying. Parents could not attend the meeting. Recommendations from this meeting were for school to try to engage

with dad and for S/W to discuss further with service manager on how to progress further with parents. Suggestion from school was that a medicine ball had offered some distraction for Y.P when displaying secularised behaviour Liberty to purchase a ball.

NME

Tac meeting also held on the 27th January owing to concerns within the family setting. Y.P has shown behaviours within the family home which foster carer states can last up to 20 minutes. Y.P tends to target foster mum. Incidents are not mirrored in their frequency at Liberty House-3x incidents in 2016. Recommendations are for the family disability support team to offer advice/support within the family home. The therapeutic LAAC team will also offer additional advice in April 2016 when allocated worker returns from A/L.

Building

- Tree quote received. Will process in new financial year.
- Ceiling tiles now replaced

Interviews with children - discussion and key issues identified

There were no young people in the unit at the time of my visit.

Voice of young people

It is clearly evident in the inspection visit for this month the continuing progress that LH makes in respect to the voice of the child.

The young people in Liberty House have a range of need and Makaton is used by a number of the young people. In the dining area there are pictures on the walls of some Makaton signs which would offer some help to a person like me unfamiliar with this language. The sign of the week this week is and clearly evident that this is frequently changed

The unit has now embedded the practice of producing a monthly newsletter called La Liberte Voice of the Child. Issue 8 for December has been produced and is on display.

There are images around the unit of young people engaged in activities provided by LH which promote a sense of homeliness and belonging, updated since Christmas

Activities Calendar

There is some question in this inspection as to its use on a daily basis as card for week beginning 2nd January still in use. This maybe a staffing oversight.

Interviews with parents/relatives.

This inspection doesn't benefit from interview with parents or relatives. Parents were in the unit attending a multiagency planning meeting- held in the jubilee room.

Interviews with staff – discussion and key issues identified.

- Potential for some funding to do some work in the garden area
- Care provision to two looked after young people
- Use of the emergency bed
- Increase need in respect to staffing- staff have been approached to undertake additional work over the weekend to avoid a need to cancel the planned stay of other young people.
- Staffing levels to reflect the need to provide an increased level of support to S.P. re her personal needs
- Fire check to be undertaken on day of inspection visit.
- Medication for ZA signed in by two staff on duty- in the medication room. Medication had been brought to L. H. by his mother.
- Event involving young person NME including violence to staff incidents 186 and 187, accident number 63 and Significant incident recording number 153.

Inspection of the premises including assessment of the physical condition of the building and furniture and equipment of the home.

Certificate of excellence following a full Ofsted inspection is on display in the entrance are to LH where visitors are asked to sign and in and out.

During this visit I have not inspected any of the bedrooms used by the young people. Rooms were reported to have been made ready for the young people staying that evening- 6 in total this includes A.C. and S. P. who are both looked after and placed in the unit.

Z.A. another young person with a LAC status will be staying this evening- LAC status due to the number of nights he stays- This young person has complex needs and has 2;1 support .

Name plaques were on the young people's bedrooms- strategy to personalise their stay. Two young people were to be using the rooms with an ensuite- this includes A.C.

Work still needs to be undertaken to repair damage to the ceiling in the dining area. Two ceiling tiles still need to be repaired. This damage including water coming in to the dining area was noted in November 2016.

For a number of months the affected area has had a number of ceiling tiles in need of replacement. These become water stained when there is heavy rain. The weather had been exceptionally harsh a few days prior to the visit in November and has resulted in water coming into the dining area in front of the food serving hatch and bringing parts of the ceiling down.

Building services are aware. The area is now safe but ceiling tiles just need to be replaced.

See email below from DH to update in respect to actions from building meeting

on 11.1.17

- Cherry Tree is now closed.
- Use of Building:
Respite CYPS
- Issues to be Resolved:
NEW QUOTE – Replacing the damaged ceiling tiles in the dining room.
– leak seems to be under control, ridge tiles replaced.
- Notes:
- Tarmac work done.
- Meter Readings:
Electric: nxt. time
Gas: next. time – sent through recently
- Monthly Checks:
Site Review/ Walkthrough inc. slips/trip/fall etc: ok
FRA/ Log Books: ok
Legionella/HSL ok
Asbestos Log Books: ok
- **Key Holders/ Alarm Details/ Emergency Access Numbers:**
--- alarm code for upstairs office.

Note the above doesn't reference the update on work to cut the trees back. Novembers inspection noted work still to be progressed. DH reports some delay due to sickness in building maintenance.

General Décor

Communal areas in LH are appropriately decorated and child focussed and subject to ongoing improvement.

Health and safety

There is no ongoing risk from damage to the ceiling caused by heavy rain in November.

Inspection of daily log of events

These were not inspected on this visit.

Significant incidents

None noted

Accident Recording.

Accident recordings since November 2016 inspection visit

- Number 63- 25.11.16 Injury to NME. To right hand. Occurred as part of an event when NME was displaying aggressive behaviour- lashing out at staff. A situation arose whereby NME was in the kitchen area on her own using her weight against the door to deny staff access. First aid given to injury to hand didn't require further treatment. Broken skin on right hand across knuckle.
Risk assessments up dated as injury occurred as part of an event whereby NME sought to be violent to two MOS. Paper work completed by P. K and signed off by DH
- Number 64- Date 31.12.16 Young person MW. Cut to her toe injured on her bedroom door. Note that young person can be unsteady on her feet. First injury of this type. Report signed off by DH
- Number 65 date 11.1.17 Young person A. G. Young person walked into a door frame , had been talking to a visitor she knew outside the night station . Small red mark noted at 4.30, not noted at 8.30. Senior on duty made aware and child's social worker made aware. Report completed by L.B. signed off by DH on 1.11.17

Violence to Staff

Incident number

- 186- Occurred on 25.11.16 and is part of the overall incident involving NME, time 9.05 pm punch to female worker LH in genital area – no apparent trigger. MOS advised to seek a further medical check. Bruising noted on the report and witness by young people and MOS UB
- 187- Occurred on 25.11.16 part of the overall incident involving NME see above – injury to NME hand. . At the time staff were seeking to reassure the young person, to support her to move towards going to bed. MOS LB had stepped in to support other staff with a view that a change in staffing may calm the young person. On this occasion this appears to have had the adverse effect young person assault MOS pulling hair. Caring C's used to prevent NME injuring herself and further hurting staff. Incident witnessed by two other staff.

A detailed report has been completed and escalated. Deputy RF notes he has yet to speak to MOS as she has been on leave. NME is a young person who has the potential to cause harm and this is the second significant incident in a relatively short period of time whereby she has displayed behaviour that has put herself and staff at risk.

- 188.- Young person R. L. . Violence towards MOS N. H. Smack to her face area, bottom lip with palm of hand. Cut and swelling to lip recorded.

Witness SG. Appears to have been no trigger. . Report signed off by DH. Plan to meet with school and social worker to explore strategies to manage this young person's behaviour. RL is a young person who requires high levels of supervision and staff have to ensure that pens are not accessible to him. He will use these inappropriately inserting into his penis.

Significant Incident Recording

Number 153.

A report has been drawn up in respect to incident number 153 involving NME- See accident report number 63 and violence to staff number 186 and 187.

This report is thorough and considers the relevant issues, identifying no potential triggers to NME aggressive behaviour.

I am satisfied that staff have sought the right balance in terms of managing this difficult situation, seeking to safe guard NME, other young people and themselves. Whilst ever other young people are present in a potentially violent situation the primary objective will be to keep everyone safe. Whilst it can often be easier to remove other young people in the longer term this isn't a solution. I concur with the managers comments that planning and preparation and communication between staff will help minimise the opportunity for an environment to be created which increases the risk of NME displaying aggressive behaviours and being a risk to herself and to others.

Whilst it is concerning that a situation arose whereby she was unattended in the kitchen area, reading the reports I can picture how this happened. Had this occurred in the summer months, curtains may have been open a staff better able to observe NME actions. .

All relevant professionals and family members have been sent a copy of the incident report.

Whilst the report is signed electronically by the appropriate manager I would recommend that it is hand signed by the person and dated as a further assurance in respect to the authenticity of the report.

A form of restraint was used by staff MG. This is recorded in the Bound and numbered book as number 76

Near Misses

Young person with faeces in their hand. MOS had contact with young person's wrists. This near miss was discussed with staff on duty who had been present as the report raised a question as to whether a form of restraint used. Having discussed this I am satisfied that no restraint used and the staff action was appropriate given the risk from infection.

Incidents of missing

There are no reported incidents of missing

Medication Administration

No medication errors

There have been no further medication errors or near misses since the last inspection. The flexibility of the two deputy managers in respect to providing additional oversight and support on a shift is clearly making a difference.

LH has continued to improve practice that hasn't been sufficiently robust in the past. Improving practice in this area is evidenced.

Inspection of record of complaints/disciplinary measures/use of restraint

Incidents of restraint

These are recorded in the Bound and Numbered book.

Number 76- This occurred as part of the significant incident involving NME on 25.11.16 when staff had to intervene. NME pulled hair of a MOS also swinging a sensory toy. Caring C;s used to prevent further injury to young person and to the MOS. M. G. used caring C, for three seconds. The outcome was child reduced grip on MOS hair. Report of this restraint signed of by 28.11.16.

Complaints

Since the last inspection there have been no new complaints- please note this question not specifically asked

Fire safety

Fire regulations guidance is in place and signed for Darren Wright- is this a new young person?

Documents seen all seem to be in order and checks in place as required.
Last evacuation false alarm- August 2016 Cherry Tree

Last drill full evacuation has been completed in December 2016.

False alarm is noted – No need to evacuate and fires service not in attendance.

The independent person must produce a report about a visit ("the independent person's report") which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether—

- (a) children are effectively safeguarded; and**
- (b) the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being**

The young people at LH have complex needs and it takes skilled intervention to manage the challenges they can present. In respect to young person NME she

features in a number of incidents of violence towards staff. Whilst these incidents are clearly of concern and present a potential risk to staff and to NME it is very positive that staff have managed these and have only had to use a minimal caring c's restraint. The recording of accidents/violence to staff is on file and clearly recorded. The actions of staff in safeguarding young people and themselves appear to be proportionate to the potential level of risk and incidents of restraint are very few.

I am satisfied that the young people at LH are effectively safe guarded while having opportunity to engage in activities in and out of the unit. Staffing levels are sufficient to ensure the safety of young people and staff. There is a degree of flexibility within the staffing team with a willingness to change shift patterns to ensure the safety of young people. This will be particularly important given the current planned use of the emergency bed and the placement of S.P. who is noted to need an increased level of support and supervision in respect to personal care. The placement of S.P. will need to be subject to a robust risk assessment as knowing of this young person I am aware of the potential for her to make an allegation.

Children accessing LH I would conclude that on balance are being effectively safeguarded both within the building, garden out in the community. They are supported and encouraged to enjoy activities and to socialise and to have fun Staff are working in partnership, together as a team and within safeguarding procedures to ensure that children are safe in the wider community.

I am satisfied that LH is providing a short break to young people in a children friendly environment which safe and is welcoming. It provides support to families to ensure ongoing care within a family setting. It is important that staffing levels are sufficient to ensure the safety of young people, and that young people can continue to stay as planned at LH whilst the emergency bed is being used and S.P. remains in placement

Scrutiny in respect to medication has been increased and levels of incidents are very much reduced. It is clear that the introduction of two people signing for, booking in (as evidenced in this visit), the administration, and the checking has supported staff to be more robust in safeguarding in this area of children's care.

I continue to recommend that all reports are signed off by hand to further evidence the authenticity of the report being produced. Particularly in respect to a significant incident- see number 153 report noted in this inspection.

Conflicts of Interest For Independent Person

Previous knowledge of the circumstances in respect to the ending of S.P. long term foster placement.

Comments by Responsible Individual

Signature: Date:

Signed

Kay Garvey

Date 23.1.17