



Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Corporate Parenting Panel

Report Title

Up-date Report on Liberty House

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

John Stonehouse, Strategic Director, Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

Mary Jarrett - Service Manager, Children with Disabilities Team and EHC Assessment Team, Children and Young People's Service

Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

Liberty House is Rotherham's only registered Children's home; it offers Outstanding provision for children with disabilities allowing parents/carers of children with complex needs to have confidence that their child is having a positive and productive experience when away from home.

Recommendations

- **That Report is noted**

List of Appendices Included: Ofsted Inspection report 2017

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

None

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

1. Recommendations: That the Report is noted.

2. Background

2.1 Liberty House is a Residential Home that offers Respite Care for children and young people aged 8-18 with complex needs and disabilities.

2.2. Liberty House now offers provision for 4 children to receive respite care per night with a higher number of young people on a Wednesday night where a group of high functioning young people attend who require a lesser amount of direct support.

2.3 Liberty House also offers full time residential care for a child or young person who needs an emergency placement. This service has been almost continually utilised over the last 12 months offering support to disabled children and young people whose permanent placements have broken down or whose parents are no longer able to care for them safely whilst a long-term placement is sought.

2.4 During 2017 it became apparent that utilisation of the emergency bed was causing frequent cancellations of planned respite causing distress to parents and young people. Therefore the Registered Manager and Responsible Individual undertook to increase the permanent staffing of the home increasing it by two care staff and one senior member of staff and also reviewed rota arrangements to ensure consistent staffing across the week and pro-rata allocation of weekend annual leave.

2.5 Liberty House staff are passionate about supporting children and young people to achieve their potential. Over the last year staff have launched 'Wow' moments with young people. These 'Wow' moments celebrate individual children's successes and achievements. Children and young people are now set targets using the Signs of Safety/Wellbeing framework to achieve whilst they stay at Liberty House, for example to support independence skills or improve communication and when these are achieved 'Wow' certificates are awarded and a 'Hall of Fame' photograph taken and displayed in the home.

2.6 Celebrations are a big part of Liberty House life. The Annual Christmas party is a big success and a Summer Fun day was held this year for the first time and was well attended. Staff have variously encouraged children and young people to participate in themed activities to celebrate the World Cup; Halloween, Easter and individual events to celebrate birthdays and mark children starting or leaving the unit.

2.7 Of the 24 young people who receive care from Liberty House the majority of children and young people are designated 'Children in Need' under section 17 of

the Children Act and their care is part of a Child in Need plan reviewed regularly by their Social Worker. There are 2 young people who are long term Looked After Children on full care orders where Liberty House is utilised by Foster Carers to offer placement support and 4 Children who are Looked After under section 20 of the Children Act because the number of nights care they receive and the complexity of their care packages require an Independent Reviewing Officer to have oversight of their Care plans. The emergency bed is currently occupied by a young person who arrived at Liberty House in November 2018, they are also on a full care order.

2.8 DLT have recently approved plans to allow Liberty House to utilise Liquid Logic so that for the first time all children's records will be held in one place and can be accessed both by residential care staff and Social Workers. This will prevent duplication of records and ensure good communication when there are issues in relation to a child or young person's care.

2.9 Ofsted Inspect Liberty House annually and thus another Inspection is expected before Christmas. Liberty House has received Outstanding outcomes from the last two full inspections, November 2016 & December 2017. Liberty House in accordance with 2015 Children's Home Regulations produces a 6 monthly self-evaluation (Regulation 45 report) and has monthly visits from an Independent Person (Regulation 44 Visit) which provide advice, guidance and safeguarding oversight of the provision of care. The regulation 44 reports are shared with the Registered Manager, Responsible Individual, and the Assistant Director for Safeguarding.

3. Key Issues:

Report for information and up-date only

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

Report for up-date and Information only.

5. Consultation

Report has been shared with the registered manager for approval.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 Not applicable

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 Not applicable

8. Legal Implications

8.1 children and Young People are cared for according to the Children Act 1989; the Children's Homes Regulations 2015 and The Children and Families Act 2014

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 None

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 Liberty House provides a much valued resource offering high quality residential respite care for children and young people with disabilities and complex needs and as such meets the Council's statutory duty to provide respite care for children with disabilities.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1

14. Accountable Officer(s)

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