

**Open Report on behalf of Janice Spencer OBE,
Interim Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	25 July 2019
Subject:	Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service Report

Summary:

This report provides the Corporate Parenting Panel with an update of the work of the Independent Visitor.

Part six, regulation 43 of the Children's Home Regulation 2015 makes provision for the appointment of an Independent Visitor. There remains an expectation that the appointment of an Independent Visitor will continue to be the responsibility of the Local Authority, with clear guidance being offered as to the criteria which must be met in terms of ensuring the visitor's independence is clearly demonstrable. The visits continue to be required to be made on a monthly basis.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to consider and comment on the Independent Visiting Service report (October 2018 to June 2019) and highlight any recommendations for future consideration.

1. Background

The Independent Visitors conduct monthly visits to the seven children's homes within Lincolnshire and produce reports to the management team which are then shared with Ofsted. In addition the service has recently begun visiting of Denton Avenue supported accommodation on a quarterly basis.

Visitor reports reflect the implementation of Signs of Safety across the authority, in the summary highlighting; what's working well, what we're worried about, what needs to happen (good practice suggestions, emerging issues, matters in progress). This ensures consistency of practice within a framework that all staff utilise within children's services. Recommendations from previous reports are reviewed to ensure that progress is being made within reasonable timescales, where issues remain outstanding Visitors continue to challenge Home Managers to ensure these are being addressed, additionally the Regulated Homes Service

Manager has sight of all reports ensuring additional support can be given if required.

2. Conclusion

Overall the homes provide good if not in some instances exceptional levels of care for the young people in their homes. There is an ethos of reflective practice and approaches within the homes; they ensure that learning is shared across the team. The use of champions ensures that practice is continually updated and promoted rather than being lost. Staff teams have been resilient and remained motivated even when staffing issues and management of young people have caused additional challenges. Homes continue to promote positive practice and strive for positive outcomes for the young people in their care.

There is the enthusiasm to develop the role of the Independent Visitor through engagement with Ofsted and engaging at a regional and national level.

The staff and manager's commitment to providing good quality care to the young people in spite of the challenges is to be commended and is consistently evident across the service.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Risks and impact are identified in monthly reports and shared with the homes on a monthly basis.

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

See report.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	REPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENT VISTING SERVICE October 2018- June 2019

5. Background Papers

This report was written by Eska Verleg and Dawn Oldroyd, who can be contacted on 07825 973554 and 07833236464 respectively.