



Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director Children's Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	26 November 2020
Subject:	Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service - Six Month Report (April - September 2020)

Summary:

This report is being prepared in order to provide the Corporate Parenting Panel with an update of the work of the Independent Visitor.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to consider the six monthly report on the Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service and highlight any recommendations for future consideration.

1. Background

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.

Within the regulations it is expected the Independent Visitor will report on the quality standards in specified areas. These can be summarised as follows:-

- the quality and purpose of care standard (see regulation 6);
- the children's views, wishes and feelings standard (see regulation 7);
- the education standard (see regulation 8);
- the enjoyment and achievement standard (see regulation 9);
- the health and well-being standard (see regulation 10);
- the positive relationships standard (see regulation 11);
- the protection of children standard (see regulation 12);
- the leadership and management standard (see regulation 13);
- the care planning standard (see regulation 14).

The Independent Visitor continues to be expected to provide a report following each visit. Part six, regulation 44 of the Children's Homes Regulations provides for the reporting of the standards.

The Regulation 44 report maintained its format providing a succinct summary of the homes under the signs of safety headings and there has been the re-introduction of the recommendations section to ensure there is clarity in prioritising areas for immediate action.

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) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Regulation 44 Independent Visiting Service - Six Month Report (April - September 2020)

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Carolyn Knight, who can be contacted on 07879 603618 or carolyn.knight@lincolnshire.gov.uk.