

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings

Purpose

1.1 Introduction

In January 2022, The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel commenced a national child safeguarding practice review into the events at Fullerton House, Wilsic Hall and Wheatley House specialist, independent residential schools, operated by the Hesley Group in Doncaster.

As part of the national review the Panel identified that there was a need for additional assurance about the safety and well-being of children living in similar types of placements. The Panel requested a number of urgent actions from directors of children's services;

I. Directors of Children's Services to ensure that Quality and Safety Reviews are completed for all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living within placements with the same registrations (i.e., residential specialist schools registered as children's homes) to ensure they are in safe, quality placements. These reviews can be incorporated into routine care review planning processes but should ensure that all the key points and questions identified in Appendix A are properly addressed.

II. This action should be led and overseen by the placing (i.e., home) local authority DCS. If a Review identifies concerns about the conduct of a member of the workforce, the placing local authority may need to share the concerns with the host Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if the threshold has been met.

III. DCS's are asked to provide an overview report on key findings and issues to both their local corporate parenting board and to local safeguarding partners, together with assurance that the Quality and Safety Reviews have been completed.

IV. DCSs are also asked to send a copy of this overview report on the Quality and Safety Reviews to the relevant DfE regional improvement support lead (RISL) (see Appendix B for a list). The Panel's national review has highlighted how information may be held locally but that it is also important to develop a fuller and more comprehensive picture of quality in these types of placements. This will also allow for regional and national assurance that these actions have been undertaken.

Urgent Action Two

In relation to this group of children (as defined above), all Directors of Children's

Services should ensure:

I. That the host authority LADO for each individual establishment reviews all information on any LADO referrals, complaints and concerns over the last 3 years relating to the workforce in such establishments to ensure these have been appropriately actioned.

II. The host authority LADO should then contact any local authorities who currently have children placed in the establishments in their area if there are any outstanding enquiries being carried out regarding staff employed in the home.

Recommendation

2.1 To consider content of report and practice assurance

Reason

3.1 It is essential that the Corporate Parenting Committee are aware of the national developments and implications for Derby City Council. It is important that an overview of the key findings and issues are provided to the local corporate parenting board and to local safeguarding partners, together with assurance that the Quality and Safety Reviews have been completed.

Supporting information

4.1 Work has been undertaken to complete the quality and safety reviews by the Independent Reviewing Service in Derby. The Independent Reviewing Officers have coordinated and chaired the meetings. In essence this activity has been incorporated in the young persons 'Looked After Review'. Where required these reviews have been brought forward in order to ensure the quality and safety review is completed by the end of October 2022 as requested by the National review.

A detailed overview report of the Quality and Safety Reviews undertaken is attached in Appendix One.

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 NA

Other options

6.1 NA

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 NA

Legal implications

- 8.1 As a Corporate Parent the Local Authority has had key role in placing young people in these dual registration establishments. It is important that the needs of young people are met safely.

Other significant implications

- 9.1 NA

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim, Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care	14.03.2023
Report sponsor	Andy Smith, Strategic Director of Peoples Services	
Other(s)		

Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Derby City - Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings