

Purpose

1. To consider information from Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection and Children, Families and Cultural Services departments on Rota Visit to residential and day care establishments across the county with a view to convening a review group to examine these issues, further to a request from the Portfolio Holder.

Information

2. Rota visits by Elected Members to residential and day care establishments across the County have been carried out, on an annual basis, for many years. This has been on the basis of one visit per annum per establishment for Adults. For our children's homes, visits take place every 6 months.
3. The visit is a joint exercise between the Members who are accompanied by an officer; normally the officer responsible for that establishment. The officer assists the Members in understanding the service, the procedures and processes involved, and gives the Members an insight to the future plans for that particular area of service.
4. The establishment is viewed in 'the round' – i.e. all aspects of the establishment are scrutinised, and positive, as well as negative, comments and observations are encouraged.
5. It is felt that rota visits play a vital role in maintaining standards, acting as a form of quality assurance and aid public accountability.

Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection

6. In Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection department, senior officers in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, have a responsibility to monitor and manage performance in the department.
7. An annual report is provided for the Cabinet Member and the Senior Leadership Team, after which it is distributed to other Members of political parties who are involved with rota visits, which gives

details of the previous twelve months' visits – i.e. the number of visits made; the Members who have undertaken the visits; and any key issues arising from the visits.

8. In 2010/11, out of a total of 41 visits scheduled to be undertaken:
 - 31 visits were completed
 - 5 visits were not completed
 - 5 establishments closed.

Children, Families and Cultural Services

9. Rota visits to our children's homes are conducted twice a year and completed reports are sent to the Service Manager and taken to the Corporate Parenting panel and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board. Any recommendations made are followed up by the service manager.
10. In 2010, there were 4 recommendations made for one home, all of which have been addressed. These related to the fabric and furnishings of the building.
11. Of the visits taken place in 2011 so far, there have been 3 recommendations made, two of which related to the fabric of the building, and one to continue with a support group for parents.
12. In addition to rota visits by elected members to residential and day care establishments, members who sit on the Safeguarding Children Forum undertake visits to local offices to meet with staff engaged in safeguarding and child protection work. These visits were first established in Nottinghamshire following the death of Victoria Climbié and the subsequent Laming Report which highlighted the need for there to be connectivity between elected members and frontline staff. The visits are scheduled to take place at least twice yearly and include staff from across Children, Families and Cultural Services. The meetings consider current statistical information relating to child protection work, interagency working and any significant issues impacting on service delivery in the area. Issues arising from those visits are considered at the Safeguarding Children Forum which meets on a quarterly basis.

Recommendation:

Members are requested to agree that a review group should be set up to examine issues associated with rota visits.

Councillor Ged Clarke
Chairman of Social Care and Health

Background Papers: Nil.

