

Public Document Pack

**Supplementary information for Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) on
14 November 2013**

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Agenda Item 9

Children's Home Charter

We are committed to making Leeds a 'Child Friendly City', where children are valued, involved and provided with the very best support and care. As part of this we want all Children's Homes in Leeds, whether they are run by companies, charities or the Council to be child friendly.

The development of the Charter has been led by children and young people. It sets out a simple list that could help to make a children's home a really good place to live rather than somewhere that is just alright. The list contains important things for the children and the staff to do that will make the house a better home and a better place for children and young people to live and grow up in.

The Charter complements the highest OfSTED standards for children's homes, the expectations of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board and best practice within the White Rose Framework.

-  Children's homes feel and look like a home.
-  Children and young people's views and wishes are listened to and make a difference to what happens in the home.
-  The rules of the home are fair and clear to everyone.
-  Staff are reasonable about what children and young people can and cannot do and take into account the views, ages and behaviours of children and young people when they make a decision.
-  Rewards and consequences for how children and young people behave are fair and reasonable and are discussed and agreed between the children, young people and the staff so that everyone knows what should happen.
-  Staff respect children and young people's privacy and do not share information about them without the young person being told who the information will be shared with and why.
-  Children and young people are helped to have a safe and active social life and to take part in a range of leisure activities.
-  Children and young people are helped to go to school, college or training, to do their homework or coursework and are given the support they need to do well.
-  Children and young people are helped to develop the skills they will need in later life.
-  Children and young people are supported to have a healthy lifestyle and are helped by health professionals when they need it.
-  Staff act quickly to deal with bullying and help children and young people to learn how to stay safe.
-  Children and young people are helped to learn how to take responsibility for their behaviour, according to their age and understanding.

Glossary

OfSTED Standards

OfSTED are responsible for the registration and inspection of all children's homes whether they are run by the local authority or a private or voluntary agency. OfSTED have published clear standards, which they call Grade Descriptors. The Grade Descriptors cover the key areas of the care provided to children by a children's home including: Outcomes for children and young people; Quality of care; Safeguarding children and young people and Leadership and management. Children's homes are inspected and given a judgement on how well they are meeting these standards. OfSTED have the power to de-register a home that is judged to be inadequate.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspections-of-childrens-homes-evaluation-schedule-and-grade-descriptors>

The White Rose Framework

Leeds has led on the development of a regional framework for commissioning residential and Independent Fostering Agency placements. The framework involves a further seven local authorities. In order to be registered as a provider with the White Rose Framework a children's home has to meet the specification requirements and outcome measures against which the performance and services of the home will be evaluated. The outcomes include ensuring that a child's physical, emotional and mental health and educational needs are met and that children are safeguarded from abuse, violence, neglect and maltreatment, bullying, self-harm, absconding and sexual exploitation.

The Leeds Safeguarding Children Board Section 11 Audit

The Children Act 2004 requires Local Safeguarding Children Boards to ensure that organisations, including children's homes, have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place. Section 11 of the Act confirms what these arrangements are. These include safe recruitment practices, safeguarding policies and procedures that staff are trained on and have access to, clear lines of accountability, complaints procedures and work with children. The Leeds Safeguarding Children Board has developed an audit tool to support agencies to audit and evaluate their arrangements.