

**London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH) response to National Review – Children with disabilities and complex health needs who are children looked after and placed in residential special schools which are also registered as children’s homes**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1** On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, the Chair of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel wrote to all Directors of Children’s Services in England requesting 2 urgent actions were completed by 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022:

**1.2 Urgent Action One:**

- 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.
- 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. DCSs 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).

**1.3 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.

**1.4** DCSs are asked to confirm that urgent action two has been taken through the overview report that is provided to the DfE Regional Improvement Support Lead on Action One above.

**1.5** On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Ofsted National Director of Regulation and Social Care wrote to all DCSs providing a confidential list of the schools that are jointly registered as children’s homes (shared under Schedule 13, paragraph 8 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006). This provided confirmation that there is no such school in Hillingdon.

## **2. Response to Urgent Action One**

**2.1** We currently have 3 young people placed in residential schools that are also registered as children’s homes:

| <b>ICS ID</b> | <b>Initials</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>Provider</b>                   | <b>Postcode</b> | <b>Ofsted rating - Education</b> | <b>Ofsted rating - Care</b> |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| XX            | A               | 11-15      | MacIntyre School-MacIntyre Care   | xx              | Good                             | Good                        |
| XX            | B               | 11-15      | Chailey Heritage Children's Home  | xx              | Outstanding                      | Good                        |
| XX            | C               | 11-15      | The Oaks- Amberleigh Care Limited | xx              | Good                             | Requires Improvement        |

**2.2** All of these placements have two ratings: one for care, and one for education. A's placement Requires Improvement for Care with the last monitoring visit recorded as taking place on 4 March 2021. The other placements are rated as Good for Care.

**2.3** Quality visits to the Residential placements took place in the month of October subsequent to the Looked After Children reviews and visits completed separately to see and obtain the views of the children/young people.

**2.4** All involved professionals and parents were asked for their views and no concerns were raised for any of the placements. A is noted as having made good progress in the time he has been at MacIntyre Care and B was observed to have formed very positive relationships with key members of staff. A is described as still settling in having moved into the placement in June 2022.

**2.5** The providers were able to give clear information on how they are meeting the needs of the children and the plans in place for them. There is evidence of the providers having a good understanding of the needs of the children and in working well to the plans in place for them with evidence of good progress and outcomes.

### 3. Response to urgent action two

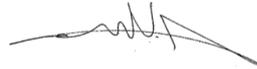
- i. The host authority LADO for each individual establishment reviews all information on any LADO referrals, complaints and concerns over the last 3 years relating to the workforce in such establishments to ensure these have been appropriately actioned.
- ii. The host authority LADO should then contact 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.

**3.1** To meet the question of how LADO assesses and manages cases specifically relating to children's special provisions we have set below standard practice as derived from "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (updated 2018).

**3.2** The LADO delivers a statutory role on behalf of the Local Authority to oversee and / or investigate all cases where allegations have been made against an adult who is employed or works in a voluntary role with children. Their role includes providing advice and guidance to employers and voluntary organisations, liaising with the Police and other agencies and monitoring the progress of cases to ensure that they are dealt with quickly, consistently and fairly.

In response to part I of the request: There is no such agency which meets the stated criteria in LBH.

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November 2022