



TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN	
REPORT AUTHORS:	Keith Munro & Jackie Amos Foster Carer Reviewing/Regulation 44 Officers.
SUBJECT:	Regulation 44 report summarising visits from May 2019 to October 2019.
PURPOSE:	To provide the members of the Corporate Parenting Board with an update on the findings in relation to the Regulation 44 visits.

Purpose

To provide members of the Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) with an update on the findings in relation to monthly unannounced Regulation 44 visits (The Children's Homes Regulations 2015) undertaken between May 2019 until October 2019.

This report provides an overview of service performance reflecting on key areas of strength and highlighting any emerging issues to the Management Team and CPB.

Background

The current Children's Homes Regulations and Quality Standards were released in their final form in April 2015.

Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 clearly states that the registered provider shall appoint, at the registered provider's expense, an independent person to visit and report on the children's home in accordance with this regulation. This is to ensure objective critical analysis with a view to improve safeguarding and service delivery for children.

The Regulation 44 Visitor must be able to evidence demonstrable independence and have the skills necessary to relate to children and young people, assess all relevant information and form a rigorous and impartial assessment of the home's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in the home's care.

Independence is defined in the DfE Guidance as a person outside of the line management of the home, including the involvement in the care planning or financial arrangements of the home, visit and report. They may be an employee or be commissioned but must have, 'a clear separation between those with a direct interest in the home performing well'. (2.12DfE Guidance)

There is one full-time and two part-time Foster Care Review/Regulation 44 Officer posts situated in the Children's Independent Review Team within the Corporate & Commercial Services Directorate. In October 2019 a part time left. A successful recruitment process has been completed with the new member of staff due to join the team on the 06/01/2020. The three officers are qualified social workers who have the relevant skills, knowledge and experience to undertake the regulation 44 visits.

Role of the Independent Visitor

Regulation 44 states that the independent person, when carrying out a visit, must interview children and young people accommodated in the home, their parents or relatives, staff from the home and relevant professionals. They are also required to inspect the premises and records (including children's case records where the child and their placing authority consents) of the children's home. The independent visitor produces a report about each visit (referred to in the Regulations as "the independent person's report") which sets out, the independent person's opinion as to whether:

- (a) children are effectively safeguarded; and
- (b) the conduct of the home promotes children's well-being.

The independent person's report may recommend actions that the registered person may take in relation to the home and timescales within which the registered person must consider whether to take those actions. A copy of the report is sent each month to Ofsted, the Responsible Individual, the Strategic Service Manager for Accommodation and the Homes Manager.

Performance Overview

The following table provides the dates within the reporting period that Regulation 44 visits have been undertaken and the date of most recent Ofsted visit:

Home	Recent Ofsted	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Colombo Road	18&19/10/19	09/05/19	06/06/19	02/07/19	06/08/19	03/09/19	18/10/19
Monument View	12&13/11/19	09/05/19	12/06/19	19/07/19	12/08/19	05/09/19	02/10/19
Grasswell House	07&08/05/19	13/05/19	03/06/19	08/07/19	12/08/19	05/09/19	02/10/19
Revelstoke Road	02&03/07/19	08/05/19	04/06/19	05/07/19	02/08/19	05/09/19	03/10/19

Administration

On average, it takes seven hours each month to undertake the Regulation 44 visits at each of the four homes. Evidence is gathered from a range of sources including young people and parents and information is evaluated to inform the report. When completed the reports are distributed by the Regulation 44 visitor to the managers of the homes within 5 working days and at the end of the process the monthly report is then forwarded to Ofsted.

During each visit at least one young person is consulted with. The discussions include their relationships with staff and how staff try to support them in relation to their education or training, hobbies and personal interests. Wherever possible a parent or carer of a different young person is also consulted with during the visit. Where this is not possible the young person's social worker or

Independent Reviewing Officer are contacted to gain their views about the care they feel is provided to the child by staff at the home.

Colombo Road

Colombo Road Children's Home is approved for up to six young people of either gender aged from twelve up to the age of eighteen. It is situated on a large housing estate in the Hylton Castle area of Sunderland. A new Senior RCCW was appointed in October 2019 bringing the management team to full strength.

The following table shows the Ofsted Judgements for the 2018 and 2019 Ofsted inspections of Colombo Road. Since the last report to CPB there has been an inspection made by Ofsted. The home has been judged to be outstanding for the last three years.

Ofsted Rating	07/02/18 Judgement	18 &19/09/18 Judgement	21&22/10/19 Judgement
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Sustained Effectiveness	Outstanding	Outstanding
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Sustained Effectiveness	Outstanding	Outstanding
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Sustained Effectiveness	Outstanding	Outstanding

Within the reporting period Colombo Road has provided care for the following numbers of young people:

May	June	July	August	September	October
5	5	5	5	5	4

Colombo Road has had unannounced Regulation 44 visits undertaken during each month of the reporting period. The management and staff team respond positively to the recommendations made in the monthly reports. They discuss the recommendations at team meetings and view the recommendations as helpful to their ongoing development of practice and running of the home. The care practice observed with young people throughout the reporting period has been of a high standard.

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	Number of recommendations in the reporting period
0	2	36	0	6

Young people have positive relationships with the staff at the home. Staff use a therapeutic parenting model (PACE) which is centred on understanding trauma and emphasises building relationships where staff focus on connecting with young people. While the number of episodes of young people reported missing to the Police was 36 which was a significant increase from the last reporting period which was 2, it was positive to note for the second reporting period running no

young people were missing for more than 24 hours. After young people return from an episode of being missing, they are offered independent return home interviews via workers commissioned from Barnardo's.

Sanctions or consequences in response to challenging behaviour presented by young people were issued on 23 occasions which was a significant increase on the previous reporting period of 3. This was due to several incidents where young people had behaved inappropriately at the home in groups. Restraints were used on 2 occasions which was a slight decrease from 3 in the previous reporting period. Thirteen critical incidents were recorded which was the same number from the previous reporting period. Five notifications were made to Ofsted which was a slight reduction from the previous reporting period of 7. Critical incidents are responded to and reflected upon in a timely way. A post crisis response is completed for each incident and actions identified and progressed to prevent reoccurrence. This involves not only learning for the home but also the opportunity for the young person to undertake some reflection to avoid the situation re-occurring.

The fabric of the building of Colombo Road both internally and externally is maintained to a very good standard. The environment within the home feels homely and young people report during visits that they feel safe. The home remains decorated and furnished to a high standard in a modern style. A capital bid to replace the boilers and refurbish the kitchen was agreed and this work was completed during the review period

The young people living at the home are settled and have high levels of attendance in education/training. Young people take up a wide variety of activities and personal hobbies inside and out with the home and take part in trips out with staff.

To summarise, the number of recommendations reduced significantly to 13 from 20 in this reporting period. Recommendations ranged from improvements to the kitchen to reviewing the individual crisis management plans for young people. The recommendations from the regulation 44 visits were accepted by the manager and implemented within the given timescales. The manager and staff have been judged by Ofsted to be outstanding for a third consecutive year. While the manager and staff recognise this as a great achievement, they remain committed to continuing to seek ways to improve the care they provide.

Voice of a Young Person

A young person was spoken with during the visit on the 11/10/19 whilst he was playing Lego with a member of staff. This is the first time B had spoken to the visitor.

B said that he got on well with staff at the home and liked his link worker Al who he felt he gets on with well. B was relaxed in the company of the member of staff he was playing Lego with which was consistent with his views about getting on well with staff. B commented that he was doing well at his alternative school placement & his tutoring since coming into placement and had completed 100% attendance at school last week something he was proud about. B said he receives a clothing allowance and has had the opportunity to choose the clothes he wants which he likes. B commented that he liked all the food which staff prepare, and he did not have any favourite meals. B said that he "*Liked things just the way they are*" at the home. Overall B summed up his experiences to date of living at the home as "*I love it here*".

Voice of a Parent

A parent of D was spoken to during the visit on the 03/09/19. D reported he is happy with the progress D is making in placement, describing him as "*doing brilliant*" with just the odd occasion of being led off by the other young people. He stated that he was "*more than happy*" with the care

D received. He advised that the staff always keep in touch with him about what D is doing, with them “*never off the phone*”, which he sees as a good thing. He knows who D’s link worker is. When he sees D, he is always well presented, with good, clean clothing. He thinks that D has lots of opportunities to go on outings and participate in activities.

Monument View

Monument View provides residential care for up to six young people of either gender aged from twelve up to the age of eighteen. It is situated geographically within Sunderland West. There have been no changes to the management structure in this reporting period. The staff team remains very stable, cohesive and committed to ensuring the best outcomes possible for young people living there

The following table shows the Ofsted judgements for the 2018 and 2019 inspections of Monument View. At the most recent Ofsted Inspection undertaken on the 12 &13/11/19 Monument View had their judgement of effectiveness reduced from an overall Outstanding to Good. When this report was completed Ofsted had not released their inspection report. Therefore, the reasons for the change in judgement were not formally available to the manager and Service Manager to consider.

Ofsted Rating	24/01/18 Judgement	9 &10/10/18 Judgement	12 &13/10/19 Judgement
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Sustained Effectiveness	Outstanding	Good
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Sustained Effectiveness	Good	Good
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Sustained Effectiveness	Outstanding	Good

Within the reporting period Monument View has provided care for the following numbers of young people:

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Aug
6	5	5	6	6	5

Monument View has had an unannounced Regulation 44 visit each month during the reporting period. The management and staff team responded well to the recommendations. Recommendations are discussed at team meetings and seen as assisting the home in maintaining standards and improving practice. The care practice observed with young people continues to be of a very high standard during visits to the home.

Each young person has education and/or training provision and where young people struggle to engage with education or training the manager and staff team work diligently in supporting them to re-engage. There is demonstrable evidence of how staff work in partnership with young people, their parents and relevant professionals to help young people to achieve their true potential.

Monument View is maintained to a consistently high standard. In November 2019 a new kitchen was fitted which has enhanced the internal appearance of the home. The homes location, garden and outbuildings provide a caring and safe environment. Young people are supported to grow their own produce and look after the hens and ducks. The home has a community built a yurt in

the garden. The home has a sensory room which is equipped to create a therapeutic environment for young people.

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
2	2	20	3	6

Young people have good relationships with the staff at the home. Staff are implementing a therapeutic parenting model (PACE) which is centred on understanding trauma and focuses building relationships where staff place an emphasis on connecting with young people.

There were 20 reported episodes of young people being reported missing from care compared to 41 in the previous reporting period which is a significant decrease. On 3 occasions young people were reported missing for more than 24 hour the same number as the previous reporting period. Sanctions were used on 2 occasions which was slightly down when compared to the 4 used during the previous reporting period. After young people return from an episode of being missing, they are offered interviews from the Barnardo's missing from home or care service workers. There were 0 restraints used during the reporting period the same as the previous reporting period. There were 2 critical incidents recorded which is a significant decrease from 8 reported previously. There were 3 notifications made to Ofsted the same number as in the last reporting period. A post crisis response is completed for each incident and actions identified and taken forward to prevent reoccurrence. The number of recommendations has increased slightly to 6 compared to 5. Recommendations ranged from: reassessing the risk assessment scoring of a young person to the maintenance of the building. The recommendations from the regulation 44 visits were accepted by the manager and implemented within the given timescales.

In summary, the manager and staff at the home were disappointed when the Ofsted rating for the home was moved from outstanding to good at the most recent inspection. Dependent upon the evidence provided within the Ofsted report, the Manager and the Service Manager may propose Together for Children liaises with Ofsted in relation to the outcome. However, the manager with support from his line manager are motivated and committed to learning from the observations and comments made by Ofsted to work towards regaining their outstanding rating.

Voice of a Young Person

P was spoken with briefly prior to him leaving to attend his training course. P said he was happy in placement. P looked physically well and was very well dressed in modern good quality clothes. P really liked the professional photograph album that staff had obtained for him and KP that captured great memories from their trip to Barcelona this summer with staff. NK was also listened to and spoken with in more depth during the visit. N was looking forward to going away with a friend of hers (not a child looked after) with two female members of staff to a beach caravan site in Northumberland in the homes caravan the following weekend. N was pleased staff had arranged for her friend to come along on this trip. At present N commented that she attends a local trust part time and is aware that a placement to meet her needs to study Art has been identified and all staff involved in her care are trying to make this happen for her. N felt that she can make age appropriate choices at the home such as the style and type of clothing she likes and that she can prepare meals for herself and her favourite is currently salad. N said that staff have supported her to learn to cook and wash and dry her clothes'. N could not think of any improvements or changes she would like to be made at the home. The impression the visitor gained was that N is happy in her placement.

Voice of a Parent

A telephone conversation was held on the 02/10/19 with D, K's mother, during the visit. D was very pleased with the progress her son is making in respect of having a job and undertaking driving lessons. D said her relationships with staff are positive. M K's link worker has visited D at her home, and she receives verbal and written information about K's progress. Overall D stated that the staff are doing a "*Fantastic job*" with K.

Grasswell House

Grasswell House provides residential care for up to six young people of either gender. It is situated within Sunderland West. The management structure has changed since reporting to members of the Corporate Parenting Board in October 2018. This followed the Ofsted inspection undertaken on the 31/10/18. The deputy manager managed the home with the approval of Ofsted since then and was appointed as manager on a permanent basis in October 2019. One of the senior residential workers acted up as Deputy Manger and was appointed deputy manager in November 2019.

The manager and the leadership team have worked hard to lead, manage and motivate the staff at Grasswell House to successfully lead the home through its journey of improvement to ensure the home meets the needs of the young people living accommodated there.

At the inspection undertaken in December 2018 the home was judged to be requires improvement to be good. It is important to note that at the most recent full inspection in May the overall experiences and progress of children and young people, how well young people are helped and protected, and the effectiveness of leaders and managers were all judged to be good. New residential child care workers have been appointed and good quality training provided. The management and staff now demonstrate a commitment to their continuous professional development, and this is reflected in their competence in practice and motivation to provide the best possible care for young people

Ofsted Rating	Judgement 31/10/18	Judgement 4&5/12/18	Judgement 7&8/05/19
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Declined Effectiveness	Requires improvement to be good	Good
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Declined Effectiveness	Requires improvement to be good	Good
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Declined Effectiveness	Requires improvement to be good	Good

Within the reporting period the home has been residence to the following number of young people:

May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
6	6	6	6	6	5

Grasswell House has had an unannounced Regulation 44 visit each month during the reporting period. The management and staff team responded well to the recommendations made following

the Regulation 44 visits. Recommendations are discussed at team meetings and seen as assisting the home in maintaining standards and improving practice. The care practice observed with young people continues to be good during visits to the home.

The young people were engaged in education and/or training and where they struggle to engage with education or training the manager and staff team work hard to support young people to re-engage. There is good evidence to show how staff work in partnership with young people, their parents and relevant professionals to help young people to achieve their true potential.

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
02	3	34	10	6

Young people have good relationships with the staff at the home. Staff are implementing a therapeutic parenting model (PACE) which is centred on understanding trauma and focuses building relationships where staff place an emphasis on connecting with young people.

There were 31 episodes of young people being reported missing from care compared to 34 a slight decrease from the previous reporting period. The number of missing episodes over 24 hours was 10 the same figure as in the last reporting period. After young people return from an episode of being missing, they are offered interviews from the Barnardo's missing from home or care service workers. Sanctions were used on 3 occasions which was slightly up when compared to the 2 used during the previous reporting period. There was 1 restraint used during the reporting period compared to 0 in the previous reporting period. There were 15 critical incidents recorded which is a significant increase from 2 during the previous period.

There were 10 notifications made to Ofsted a significant increase compared to the previous period of 3. A post crisis response is completed for each incident and action identified and taken to try and reduce the risk of incidents reoccurring. The number of recommendations reduced considerably to 6 when compared to the figure during the last review period of 27. This reduction in recommendations reflects the good progress the home has made. The evidence coincided with the homes Ofsted inspection in May 2019 and continued to improve afterwards. The recommendations from the regulation 44 visits were accepted by the manager and implemented within the given timescales.

The newly appointed manager (formerly deputy manager) have worked hard to improve the care they provide to achieve a rating of good by Ofsted in their most recent inspection. The manager and staff are committed to trying to improve the care they provide further with the hope this will be recognised up by the inspector at their next Ofsted inspection.

To summarise, young people have positive relationships with the management team and staff built on an understanding of trauma and child centred care practice. A therapeutic parenting model (PACE) is used and it is evident the needs of young people are prioritised appropriately. The manager and staff at the home are pleased that Ofsted's judgement of the standards of care they provide to young people at the home has improved for two inspections in a row and the home is now rated good.

Voice of a Young Person

During the visit on the 12/08/19 J was consulted with. J has only recently come to live here after previously being in foster care. J feels she is settling in well and is getting to know everyone who lives and works here. Before she moved in, she came to visit and went with staff to choose new wallpaper and soft furnishings for her bedroom. Personalising her room is helpful for J in making it

feel like, *'her own'*. I asked J about privacy and she said her carers always knock on her door and wait until she answers. Her room is kept locked and no one goes in without being invited. J left school at the end of the summer term and will start college in September. She is aware that she will be supported by the (temporary) manager and staff team to get to and from college and with her college work if needed.

J told me about the young people's meetings. She has attended them since she came to live here and said, *'staff listen to us and they act on what we say'*. She talked about participation and engagement workers from the Organisation becoming involved to support young people to learn new skills and access more opportunities. Later in the visit young person D was consulted Young person D was happy to speak to me during the visit. D described the home as *"class"*, saying it was much better since two other young people moved out. It is now much quieter.

D clearly has a good relationship with his link worker (J). D said he loved her and feels she supports him 100%. D can talk to his link worker about anything. D is in education and feels he has support from the staff team to achieve. He is currently attending summer school and is hoping to progress to an apprenticeship. D takes an active part in weekly young people's meetings. Issues are taken forward by one member of the staff team. If an issue needs to go to management for a decision, D feels they can take too long to *"think about it"*. This issue was addressed with the homes (acting) manager following the visit and assurance was given that he will make sure young people are responded to in a timely manner. The young people are going to meet with the participation team to try to secure some additional funding for activities.

Voice of a Parent

A telephone conversation was held on the 12/08/19 with D's mother during the visit. She feels that D is doing very well. He has been working hard and is doing summer school. He presents as happier. He has recently been out clothes shopping and he always looks well dressed. Staff regularly telephone with updates. She knows D's link worker and stated that D *"loves all the workers to bits"*. If she visits the home, she is always made to feel welcome, describing it as a home from home. D's parent spoke very highly of the home. She has experienced other homes and feels that this is the best one.

Revelstoke Road

Revelstoke Road children's home provides residential care for up to six young people of either gender. It is situated on a housing estate within Sunderland North. There have been no changes to the management structure during this reporting period.

The following table shows the Ofsted Judgements for 2017 and 2018 Ofsted inspections of the home. At the last Full Inspection undertaken in July 2019 the overall experiences and progress of children and young people were judged to be Good.

Ofsted Rating	Judgement 8 & 9/11/17	Judgement 26/06/18	Judgement 02/07/19 03/07/19
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people	Good	Good	Good
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Requires improvement to be good	Good	Good
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	Requires improvement to be good	Good	Good

Within the reporting period the home has been residence to the following number of young people:

May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
6	6	6	6	6	6

Young people have positive relationships with the staff at the home. Staff are implementing a therapeutic parenting model (PACE) which is centred on understanding trauma and focuses building relationships where staff place an emphasis on connecting with young people.

Unannounced Regulation 44 visits were undertaken during each month of the reporting period. Care practice with young people was observed to be of a good standard. Young people are looked after well at the home and they are making progress. The number of times young people were reported missing from the home increased significantly from 16 during the previous reporting period to 80 during this period.

The increase was hugely affected by the admission of a young person placed in June 19. There were 2 young people reported missing for periods of over 24 hours compared to 0 during the last reporting period. After young people return from an episode of being missing, they are offered interviews from the Barnardo's missing from home or care service workers. Restraints were used on 7 occasions during the reporting period a significant increase when compared to 1 during the previous reporting period.

There were 26 critical incidents of which 20 were reported to Ofsted. This was a significant increase from the previous reporting period when 7 critical incidents were recorded. There were 10 notifications made to Ofsted which was the same as the previous reporting period. The reason for the significant increase in figures mentioned above relates to the young person admitted to the home in June 2019. The young person's behaviours reflect the trauma they had suffered prior to their admission. Staff have supported the young person through a series of crisis's and these critical incidents were responded to efficiently and a post crisis response was completed on each occasion for the young person and staff.

Ofsted inspected the home in July 2019, and despite the significant increase in critical incidents and Ofsted notifications, the inspector was satisfied with the support provided by staff to the young person and how her behaviour was managed. It is to the credit of staff through their perseverance in supporting the young person that the home maintained its judgement of good at this inspection in all three categories. The recommendations from the regulation 44 visits were accepted by the manager and implemented within the given timescales.

Young people are engaged in education and/or training and if they struggle to engage with education or training the manager and staff team work well to support young people to re-engage. There is strong evidence to show how staff work in partnership with young people, their parents and relevant professionals to help young people to achieve their true potential.

No of admissions in reporting period	No of discharges in reporting period	No of missing incidents	No of missing incidents over 24hrs	No of rec's in the reporting period
2	1	80	2	9

Revelstoke Road is maintained externally and internally to a good standard and is decorated and furnished in a modern contemporary style. The environment within the home feels welcoming, comfortable and warm and the young people present as being happy during the regulation 44 visits.

At the beginning of the reported period five young people were attending school or an alternative educational provision. One young person disengaged from education regardless of consistent efforts from team members to support him. By the end of the six months period three young people were attending school, one disengaged although is engaging in an educational programme within Revelstoke Road, one young person attended college and one, for the main part enjoyed full-time employment until recently when his hours were reduced to week-end work due to lack of opportunity and not as a consequence of his work ethic. The young person is hoping to resume full-time employment next year.

The attendance and attainment of the young people at school or alternative educational provision generally varied. Most of the young people struggled with attainment and their attendance fluctuated. One young person kept consistently high attendance and made positive academic progress.

In summary, young people have positive relationships with the management team and staff, built on an understanding of trauma and child centred care practice. A therapeutic parenting model (PACE) is used and it is evident the needs of young people are prioritised appropriately. The manager and staff at the home are pleased that Ofsted's judgement of the standards of care they provide to young people at the home has been rated as good for the second inspection in a row and are working hard to try to improve their rating to outstanding.

Voice of a Young Person

Several young people made themselves available to discuss their wishes and views during the visits. The young people were polite and engaging. They were confident to express their wishes and feelings and raise any concerns they had. The young people expressed that they felt well looked after and that the staff care about them and support them. The young people gave examples of support with education, developing independent life skills, relationships with other young people within the home and their own emotions. The young people also had opportunities to participate in young people's meetings to discuss aspects of their lives such as meal planning, holidays and activities.

An example is from the regulation 44 visit on the 12/08/19. B was consulted. B feels that staff showed respect to him giving the example of "*How they speak to you*" by which he meant their tone and demeanour. B said he tries to show respect to staff "*By trying to be fair to them*". B also commented that he feels he has privacy at the home. For example, if he wants to be alone, he can

spend time in his bedroom and staff respect his privacy and always knock on the door when they want to speak to him.

Voice of a Parent

The feedback from the parents of young people in this reporting period has been positive with regards to the quality of care that has been provided and there being clear lines of communication between residential staff and parents. One parent commented that she felt her daughter is developing positive relationships with staff and that the staff are '*brilliant*' in communicating with her. The parents in their feedback have also advised that they feel that the home has clear boundaries/expectations and that staff have close relationships with the young people.

Analysis

In this reporting period each children's home has had visits undertaken in accordance with Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2015. The reports have been written and distributed to Ofsted, the Responsible Individual, Strategic Manager and Home Manager within the given timescale.

Learning from recommendations is shared within individual homes and across all 4 homes. Managers and the staff teams have used the recommendations made to assist them to provide standards of care which support young people to reach their true potential.

Colombo Road is currently judged by Ofsted to be providing "*Outstanding*" standards of care and Monument View, Grasswell House and Revelstoke Road are rated as providing "*Good*" standards of care. It was also good to note that Grasswell House have had their grading improved twice in the last seven months and are now judged to be providing good care.

The managers of the homes accept and act upon the recommendations made in the regulation 44 monthly reports and are committed along with their staff teams to improving the standards of care they provide for children and young people.

Service Review & Development

The annual programme of themed audits has been reviewed and updated to reflect the feedback from Ofsted inspections, the needs of the managers of the homes, their line manager and those of the regulation 44 visitors. In addition, feedback letters are now being sent to young people at each home after the regulation 44 visits.

The regulation 44 visit forms are to be amended to ensure the new model of working adopted by Together for Children, Signs of Safety will be implemented from February 2020.