

Liberty House Policy Listening Devices and Sleep Monitors

2017

Children's Homes Regulations 2015 (3.16)

Any home using CCTV or other monitoring equipment should have a written policy describing how this will support the safeguarding and well-being of those living and working in the home in accordance with regulation 24. Homes must gain consent to any monitoring or surveillance by the placing authority in writing at the time of the placement.

This policy relates to the use of **Listening devices/baby monitors** during short break stays at Liberty House. No other devices including CCTV will be supported by this policy.

The use of **listening devices/baby monitors** have been recognised to support employees in reacting speedily to disturbances produced when children are affected by seizures or other sleep related conditions. This equipment allows staff to monitor and provide a more robust reactionary process, and when necessary prompt medical care within recognised timeframes. (The nationally recognised time for contacting emergency services after a seizure has commenced is 5 minutes.)

- Liberty House will purchase and maintain the listening equipment in line with the Electrical Equipment Risk Assessment.
- Monitors are to be used only as a supporting safety measure during overnight stays for children with a known condition which aids night time employees in providing care duties.
- Care plans will include information within the sleeping section of the child's file on the use of listening devices which parents/carers, and children will have access to. Responsible persons for children and where applicable the child will need to agree to monitoring equipment supporting the child's sleep and evidence this in the form of signatures.
- Devices will only at any time support health related conditions. Particularly epilepsy diagnosis. Other conditions may also require monitoring and in such cases details will be recorded and retained on the child's file.

- Children's dignity is at the forefront of Liberty House's culture and where children are able to make decisions on their own health matters consultation will take place between the child, parent/carer and health professionals on the continued use of monitors.
- Care plans and Risk assessments will inform employees on the diagnosis of epilepsy or other conditions supported by information provided by parents, health professionals or others related to the child's care, including the child. This information will determine the use of listening monitors.
- Children's Care Plans & Risk Assessments will contain appropriate information on the use of monitors and their application while the child is in residence at Liberty House.
- As in all elements of the child's overall welfare the use of monitors is to be continually reviewed as part of the statutory reviewing processes.