



Breakaway

Appointment of independent visitors for accommodated children

Policy Owner:	Ranbir Sidhu (Registered Manager)
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Policy Summary:

Regulations 43, 44 of the Children's Home Regulations 2015

Policy Aim

To ensure the effective safeguarding of children and to promote their overall wellbeing, Breakaway is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all children in our care.

Policy

The registered provider has a duty to appoint, at their expense, a person (the independent person) to visit and report on Breakaway at least once a month.

The independent person may not be:-

- a. A person who is employed by the registered provider.
- b. A person involved in preparing the care plan of any child placed at Breakaway or a person responsible for managing or supervising that person.
- c. A person responsible for commissioning or financing services provided by the home
- d. A person with financial interests in the home
- e. The responsible person
- f. A person who has, or has had, a connection with:-
 - The registered person
 - A person working at Breakaway
 - A child

If a person is employed solely by the registered provider to examine and scrutinise critically:-

- a) The way the home is carried on or managed
- b) The quality of care provided for children

They are then permitted to carry out the role of an independent person.

The role of the independent visitor is to write a report about the conduct of the home; about how it is being run. Visitors have to check records and also check if children are being kept safe. They should remain independent and child-focused. The emphasis should be on ensuring that the views of children, young people and other significant people are captured and reflected within the report.

The independent person must declare any actual or conflict of interest to the registered provider without delay and, if reasonably practicable, before conducting a visit to the home.

If the registered provider becomes aware of a potential conflict of interest in relation to the independent person before or during the independent person visiting the home the registered provider must:-

- a) Make arrangements to cancel the visit without delay
- b) Appoint a different independent person to visit the home

Procedure

- a) The independent person will make a, usually, unannounced visit to the home monthly.
- b) The Registered Manager or Team Leader should, ideally, be available to help the independent person:-
 - i. If they consent, to interview in private a child, their parents and staff working in the home.

- ii. To inspect the premises of the home and the home's records (except a child's case records, unless the child/the child's parent's/carer's and the child's placing authority consent)
- c) The independent person must produce a report about the visit (the independent person's report) which sets out, in particular, the independent person's opinion as to whether:-
 - i) Children are effectively safeguarded
 - ii) The conduct of the home promotes children's wellbeing

The report may recommend actions, along with timescales, that the Registered person should consider and implement if it is felt the actions would enhance the care provided for the children

- d) The independent person must provide a copy of their report to:-
 - i) HMCI
 - ii) If requested Slough Children First
 - iii) The placing authorities of the children if they are out of county
 - iv) The Registered Provider and, if applicable, the Registered Manager and the responsible individual (if one is nominated)