

Regulation 44

The aim of Regulation 44 is to ensure that the Children's Homes are visited monthly by an independent person to monitor the welfare of the children and young people in Durham County Council Children's Homes and to ensure that requirements in The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and Quality Standards are met.

A nominated officer from NYAS is allocated to each individual children's home in order to undertake the Regulation 44 monthly visits, on occasion (approximately 4 times per year), the Regulation 44 Officer will be supported by an elected member from the area where the children's home is located. Regulation 44 visits to the home are unannounced and should be at varied times throughout the day.

Whilst at the home, the nominated officer should monitor the standards of care within the home by using a variety of methods, such as discussions with staff, young people and other relevant professionals, accessing children's records, accessing reports and recordings to ensure compliance with regulations, as well as other relevant documentation. The Nominated Officer will also investigate pre identified themes as part of the process as well as investigating any service specific themes as identified. Any strengths and/or concerns should be reported.

Every effort should be made to speak with young people, their parents or significant others to gain their views on the operation of the home.

The nominated officer should be able state whether young people are effectively safeguarded, and the conduct of the home promotes the well-being of children. An opportunity should be provided for any child or member of staff to meet with the nominated officer should they wish to do so.

Regulation 44 visits should not interfere with the normal running of the home and should not be intrusive to the young people.

The Regulation 44 visitor is totally impartial and is responsible for the production of an independent report.

The Registered Manager should ensure that young people sign a consent form giving their permission for the visitor to view their file or see their bedroom. The young person may also sign stating that they do not give permission.

The staff member on duty needs to ensure the Regulation 44 visitor is made aware of whether or not the young person has given consent to access to that young person's files or bedroom.

An action plan will be completed by the Registered Manager or Senior staff member in their absence and then distributed in line with the reporting procedures below.

1. NYAS to send the completed report to the Homes Manager and identified Senior Residential Worker (within 7 days of the visit taking place)
2. Homes Manager to consider and add comments
3. Homes Manager to email to Registered Individual for consideration and their comments
4. Registered Individual to liaise with the home's manager should any clarification be required, or any suggested changes made (the homes manager and RI have 14 days to consider, add comments and sign the report and to return to NYAS)
5. Registered Individual or PA (on Claire's behalf) then sends the completed report (with signatures) back to the following email: regulation44@NYAS.net
6. NYAS to send the completed report to Ofsted and to copy in the homes manager, the elected member and ahs.commissioning@durham.gov.uk
7. Signed off report is saved to teams by commissioning admin – so a record of all reports are saved in one place and can be accessed quickly which supports the overall management of the contract