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The Willow Children's Centre
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Our Reference EY335023

Dear Mrs Susan Jean Gates

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Pauline Nazarkardeh, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 09/12/2013. This visit follows on from your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of the visit

As a result of our inspection on 15/05/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

As a result of the inspection you were issued with two welfare requirements notices requiring you to, "ensure that children are adequately supervised and decide how to deploy staff so that children are always within sight or hearing" and to "ensure the premises, including all exit doors are secure."

In addition you were also issued with notices to improve in relation to keeping accident records confidential and to foster a culture of mutual support, teamwork and coaching, including monitoring of staff and self-evaluation. The setting was also asked to secure improvements and provide challenging activities for children and to improve the use of assessments to track children's achievement and shape the learning experiences for more able children. Notices were also issued under the child care register to ensure that children are unable to leave the premises without a person who is caring for them on those premises becoming aware that that child is leaving.

A monitoring visit was carried out on 9 July 2013 when it was found that overall the progress made since the last inspection was satisfactory, the two welfare requirements notices in relation to the deployment of staff and securing the building had been met. In addition details in the accident records were recorded confidentiality.

Work had started on the systems to offer mutual support and to develop teamwork

and coaching to support staff development as well as the systems to assess and provide for more able children.

An additional notice to improve was raised to address the need to organise and plan for the outdoor play area to ensure that children can be seen or heard at all times.

A second monitoring visit was carried out on 13 September 2013 when it was found that progress made since the previous monitoring visit was good. Changes had been made to the indoor environment to improve children's learning experiences and to ensure that children were adequately supervised and staff deployed so that children were always within sight or hearing. Improvements had also been made to the security of the building, with the monitoring systems introduced for adults and children entering and leaving the building. In addition accident recording was maintained in a way which ensured confidentiality.

The leadership and management of the setting had improved. The management team were actively involved in monitoring the quality of the provision and supporting staff through the changes which had been put in place to bring about improvements. Training was provided to staff to ensure that they could reflect on practice to ensure that improvements to practice were maintained through ownership of the changes and through peer observations of practice.

The developments needed for the outdoor environment were in process with clear plans in place about how changes can bring about the required improvements. In addition staff were been supported to ensure that all staff undertake careful recordings of children's development and learning experience, so that accurate next steps in their learning can be made.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that at this time the setting is making good improvement overall.

Overall effectiveness of the improvement and outcomes for children

The culture of mutual support, teamwork and coaching, including monitoring of staff and self-evaluation of practice continues to be a focus for the management team. Staff have opportunities to reflect on practice to ensure that improvements to practice are maintained through ownership of the changes and through peer observations of practice. The provider has sustained the improvements which have led from the reorganisation of the indoor environment. As a result children's learning experiences have been improved and they are adequately supervised. Individual staff training needs have been assessed with leaning and opportunities provided following this assessment. Visits to quality provision have resulted in staff implementing the good practice observed during these visits.

Accident recording is maintained in a way which ensures confidentiality. The improved security of the building has been sustained, with adults and children been monitored on entering and leaving the building.

The developments of the outdoor environment has resulted in the extension of the indoor learning environment outdoors. Zones have been created enabling a free flow for the children. Staff have noticed an improvements in relation to the outside learning environment which means it is easier to supervise the children.

Improvements continue to be made to ensure that all staff undertake careful recordings of children's development and learning experience, so that accurate next steps in their learning can be made. The management team have utilised the support of quality improvement team, the have developed their system for learning walks and are focusing on consistency of practice. There is a heightened awareness of the need to meet the needs of the more able children with links being established with receiving school to support the children in school readiness.

Next steps

Having considered all the evidence the inspector is of the opinion that at this time:

- The setting has made good improvement. The next visit will be a full inspection.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your setting. If you have any further queries please contact us on the number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Susan Gregory HMI
National Director, Inspection Delivery