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Our Reference EY357233

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Nikki Whinton, monitored your provision on 27/02/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 26/09/2014, we sent you a welfare requirements notice. The actions you were set are included at the end of this letter.

The welfare requirements notice had a completion date of 21 November 2013 and required you to: ensure people whose suitability has not been checked, including through a criminal records check, do not have unsupervised contact with children being cared for; and ensure that there is an effective safeguarding policy and procedure in place that all assistants understand and are able to implement.

We also issued you with three notices to improve, to be completed by 21 November 2013, that required you to: take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises; ensure that no one can enter the premises without the knowledge of a person who is caring for children on the premises; ensure that any person having unsupervised contact with children is suitable to be in regular contact with children and that a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check has been obtained through Ofsted in respect of that person. You were also issued a notice to improve, to be completed by 13 February 2014 that required you to: develop secure systems for monitoring and self-evaluation, to identify areas for development and foster a culture of continuous improvement to promote the interests of children.

An inspector visited you on 22 November 2013 to monitor your progress. The inspector spoke to your assistants and observed interactions between children and staff. The inspector discussed with you the steps you had taken to address the action raised in the welfare requirements notice and notices to improve. It was found that you had taken steps to ensure that suitability checks had been completed on all your staff and that only those adults whose suitability had been checked, including through a criminal records check, had unsupervised contact with children being cared for. You had revised and amended your safeguarding policy and procedures. Your staff had attended basic safeguarding training. You had taken steps to make sure your premises were secure, monitor those wishing to enter your premises and

prevent any unauthorised persons entering your provision.

However, your staff did not have a secure understanding of your safeguarding policy and procedures, particularly the procedures to follow if they had a safeguarding concern about a child or if an allegation were to be raised in respect of a staff member. As a result, we issued you with a welfare requirements notice, with a completion date of 11 December 2013, requiring you to ensure all assistants have a clear understanding of and are able to implement the safeguarding policy and procedures. In addition, it was found that some required records, namely evidence of parental permission for staff to have short term sole care of children, were not available for inspection by Ofsted. As a result, we issued you with a notice to improve, with a completion date of 11 December 2013, requiring you to make sure records are easily accessible and available, with particular reference to parental permissions for assistants to have sole care of children.

An inspector visited you on 12 December 2013 to monitor your progress. The inspector discussed with you the steps you had taken to address the actions raised in the welfare requirements notice and notice to improve, which were due for completion by 11 December 2013. The inspector spoke to your assistants and observed interactions between children and staff. Your assistants articulated a secure understanding of the safeguarding policy and procedures. They were aware of the correct procedures to follow if they had a safeguarding concern about a child or if an allegation were raised in respect of a staff member. Legally required records were accessible and available for inspection.

An inspector visited you on 27 February 2014 to monitor your progress. The inspector spoke to your assistants and observed interactions between children and staff. The inspector discussed with you the steps you had taken to address the action raised in the notice to improve, which was due for completion by 13 February 2014. The inspector found that you had carefully reflected on and evaluated your practice. You had taken effective measures to improve the quality of your provision, for example, through targeted training and regular supervision meetings with your assistants.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the childminder has taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

Next steps

The next step will be a full inspection.

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

Yours sincerely

Lorna Fitzjohn
National Director, Childminding

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
develop secure systems for monitoring and self-evaluation, to identify areas for development and foster a culture of continuous improvement to promote the interests of children.	13/02/2013	27/02/2014