

## **Independent Fostering Agency – Monitoring visit**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Freedom Fostering</b>
<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>19/12/2016</b>
<b>Unique reference number</b>	<b>SC037304</b>
<b>Type of inspection</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Hannah Bates</b>

**This monitoring visit.**

Ofsted completed an unannounced monitoring visit because of concerns around a child's well-being while in the care of a foster carer. The police and local authority are currently investigating the concerns and their investigations are ongoing. The foster carer does not have any children placed with her pending the outcome of the investigation. The agency have acted appropriately and engaged with professionals as part of the investigation.

Ofsted found two regulatory breaches from this monitoring visit. While the agency had completed a lengthy foster carer assessment for panel, they had not made all attempts to gather the relevant background information in order to provide a clear and in-depth assessment of the foster carer. Risk assessments did not give enough consideration as to the history and experiences of the foster carer and any potential impact on their role as a foster carer.

The agency has worked effectively with the local authority. The local authority has no concerns regarding the agency's actions. The agency has followed their own safeguarding procedures and has effectively shared information. The agency has reflected on their recruitment processes. They are waiting for the outcome from the local authority and police prior to being able to fully review the incident and future learnings.

## Information about this independent fostering agency

This is an independent fostering agency registered to provide short- and long-term placements to children and young people aged 0 to 18 years.

## What does the children's home need to do to improve?

### Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that must be taken so that the registered person(s) meets the Care Standards Act 2000, Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 and the national minimum standards. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The fostering service provider must obtain the information specified in Schedule 3 relating to X and other members of X's household and family, and any other information they consider relevant. (Regulation 26 (2) (a))	27/02/2017
The fostering service provider must consider whether X is suitable to be a foster parent and whether X's household is suitable for any child. (Regulation 26 (3) (a))	27/02/2017

## Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the independent fostering agency since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

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