

Compliance action taken for childcare provision

138210/C317120

Date: 22/06/2017

Summary of outcome

On 31 May 2017, we received a concern that during an outing a child was able to leave the play area of a park unnoticed by staff. We liaised with statutory agencies and found that this incident had not been shared with other relevant agencies. This raised concerns about how children are kept safe in the staff's care and how staff share information with other professionals in a timely manner. We needed to look into this information to check that the provider was meeting the statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage. In particular, the requirements relating to; supervision of children, risk assessments, staff deployment, training support and skills and safeguarding practices and policy. In addition, this included concerns about staff's understanding of incidents that must be notified to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

On the 2 June 2017, we carried out an unannounced visit to the setting to check compliance with requirements. We found that following the incident the manager had completed a risk assessment. This showed that although there were sufficient staff caring for children on the day of the incident, these staff were not deployed effectively to meet the individual needs of the children at all times. In addition, we found that the manager in charge on the day of the incident failed to notify LADO of this significant incident which is a requirement of registration. We also found there was no trained practitioner designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding in the absence of the designated safeguarding member of staff.

In addition, we carried out a further interview with the provider on 16 June 2016. We found that following the incident the provider had taken immediate action to reduce any risks to children. The provider liaised with Ofsted and the LADO and reviewed all policies and procedures including risk assessments for outings. In addition, the provider has implemented a number of actions to further improve practice and to ensure requirements are met. In addition, she

has arranged for managers and staff to complete appropriate safeguarding training to improve their skills and understanding.

Although not part of the original concern, we found that the after school club and holiday play scheme had moved to a different part of the building they had originally been registered in, which resulted in a change of address. The provider had not notified Ofsted of this significant change. On this occasion Ofsted issued the provider with a warning letter.

Following our visit, we sent the provider a welfare requirement notice that asked her to:

ensure that children are adequately supervised at all times to ensure their safety, particularly when on outings

improve safeguarding arrangements to share information with LADO and Ofsted in a timely manner to ensure they are notified about safeguarding incidents

ensure that a trained practitioner designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children and liaising with local statutory children's services agencies is present on site at all times to provide support, advice and guidance to any other staff on an ongoing basis and on any specific safeguarding issue as required.

It is an offence for a person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a welfare requirements notice.

We carried out a compliance visit to the nursery on 4 July 2017 to check the provider was complying with the actions set in the welfare requirements notice. We found the provider had taken necessary action and was found to be meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the early years foundation stage.

The provider remains registered with Ofsted.

Publication of compliance action

We aim to ensure that the welfare of children and young people is protected in the services we regulate. The Childcare Act 2006 and accompanying regulations set out our responsibilities to regulate childminders and childcare providers. This includes the enforcement powers we have in relation to those registered providers who do not comply with the requirements for registration.

We publish details of any actions we take, or the childminder or childcare provider takes to bring about compliance with requirements on our website for a period of five years commencing on the date we complete our investigation.

For further information please read the *Early years compliance handbook* which can be found here at www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-provider-non-compliance-action-by-ofsted .