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Our Reference 310790

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Helen Blackburn, monitored your provision on 21/08/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 05/06/2014, we sent you a notice to improve. If you were set actions at the inspection, or as a result of our subsequent monitoring or investigations, these are included at the end of this letter.

During the monitoring visit, the inspector discussed with you your action planning and the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She observed interaction between you and the children. The inspector discussed with you and looked at relevant policies relating to safeguarding children, equality of opportunity and inclusion. She looked at a selection of children's observation and assessment records, including arrangements for monitoring concerns about children's progress or welfare. She discussed with you arrangements for working in partnership with parents and others involved in children's care and learning.

You explained that you had met with your local authority representative the day before the monitoring visit. You explained that you were happy for the monitoring visit to continue without contacting them again, unless you felt they could provide clarity to any discussions held. During the visit, you did not feel a need to contact them. The inspector found that you have welcomed the support your local authority representative has offered and you explained that you are continuing to work closely with them, to further develop your practice. You explained that you agreed a plan of action with your local authority representative to address the issues raised at your last inspection. This has enabled you to accurately prioritise the areas for improvement identified at your last inspection and it supports you in planning for your ongoing development. You explained that self-evaluation is a key priority in readiness for your next inspection.

You explained that you have reviewed and updated your safeguarding policy. You explained that you had regard to information outlined in the 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and 'Local Safeguarding Children Board' (LSCB) guidance and

procedures when updating your own written safeguarding policy. As a result, you explained that you have added more detail in your policy about dealing with serious concerns. You discussed that you have included more information about the recording procedures when dealing with, or monitoring concerns about children's welfare. You demonstrated that your policy includes relevant contact details of all the agencies you would involve if you had significant concerns about children's well-being and welfare. You also explained and demonstrated through your record keeping that you complete safeguarding training on a yearly basis so that you have an up-to-date awareness of safeguarding procedures. These arrangements contribute to you taking action to ensure correct procedures are followed when reporting concerns about children's safety and welfare.

Following the inspection, you explained that you have put in place 'A declaration by parent and/or carers contract' that they sign to say that they have provided all the necessary information about their children's care and welfare. You explained that this declaration includes information about any other professionals involved in children's care and learning. You explained this ensures you are aware of other professionals involved and this supports you in working together to support children's continuing progress. You also explained that you work closely with school, including attending meetings where possible, to support the planning and progress of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. You discussed that this has enabled you to share and exchange ideas with school to promote consistency, for example, when managing children's behaviour.

You explained that you have reviewed and updated your equality of opportunity and valuing diversity policy and your inclusion policy. You explained that you have combined these policies to provide clarity of information in one place. You explained that you have added more detail about finding out about children's needs when they first start, including ensuring that you are aware from the beginning about any other professionals involved. In addition, you explained that you have updated your policies to reflect impending changes to legalisation relating to arrangements for supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). You also explained that in 2013 you completed Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) training. As a result, you attend regular SENCO network meetings and training sessions to support you in understanding how you can ensure all reasonable adjustments are in place to support the needs of all children.

Following the inspection, you explained that you maintain written progress and assessment records for all children in the early years age range, including those who only attend before and after school. You explained that these records include your observations of children's progress and achievements and any next steps that you have planned for. You explained these records also include any information that is shared from school about children's learning. You discussed that these records

support you in monitoring children's progress and that they are available for parents and children to look at any time. You explained that if you are monitoring any concerns about children's progress or care that you record these in a confidential record, in line with your safeguarding policy. You explained that the information in these records is discussed with parents and/or other relevant agencies when needed and appropriate, in a timely manner. You explained that both these records provide accurate and true assessments of your observations of children's care, learning and welfare. Therefore, demonstrating the arrangements you have in place in regard to your ongoing assessments of children's development and information sharing with parents are sufficiently robust.

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You explained that you have reviewed and updated your safeguarding policy. You explained that you had regard to information outlined in the 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and 'Local Safeguarding Children Board' (LSCB) guidance and procedures when updating your own written safeguarding policy. As a result, you explained that you have added more detail in your policy about dealing with serious concerns. You discussed that you have included more information about the recording procedures when dealing with, or monitoring concerns about children's welfare. You demonstrated that your policy includes relevant contact details of all the agencies you would involve if you had significant concerns about children's well-being and welfare. You also explained and demonstrated through your record

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welfare. Therefore, demonstrating the arrangements you have in place in regard to your ongoing assessments of children's development and information sharing with parents are sufficiently robust.

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You explained that you had met with your local authority representative the day before the monitoring visit. You explained that you were happy for the monitoring visit to continue without contacting them again, unless you felt they could provide clarity to any discussions held. During the visit, you did not feel a need to contact them.

The inspector found that you have welcomed the support your local authority representative has offered and you explained that you are continuing to work closely with them, to further develop your practice. You explained that you agreed a plan of action with your local authority representative to address the issues raised at your last inspection. This has enabled you to accurately prioritise the areas for improvement identified at your last inspection and it supports you in planning for your ongoing development. You explained that self-evaluation is a key priority in readiness for your next inspection.

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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.

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

Nick Hudson
National Director, Early Education

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
develop an understanding of the government's statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', and ensure correct procedures are followed for reporting concerns about children's safety and welfare	19/06/2014	21/08/2014
improve partnerships with other professionals involved with children to ensure concerns about children's development are shared, and effective strategies are implemented to support their continuing progress	19/06/2014	21/08/2014
implement policies and procedures that support equality of opportunity, and ensure reasonable adjustments are made to support the needs of all children	19/06/2014	21/08/2014
ensure ongoing assessments of children's development are true and accurate, and make certain any concerns about children's progress are identified, and shared with parents, in a timely manner.	19/06/2014	21/08/2014
keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	19/06/2014	21/08/2014
keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	19/06/2014	21/08/2014