



Reg44 Network Meeting 12th March 2021

Initial reflections from the discussion on semi-independence standards;

Group 1 Feedback:

- These discussions need to be linked to care reviews
- How much care and non-care should a young person be receiving in semi-independent
- Are we overseeing the quality of the service or whether young person is in an appropriate placement
- Balance – what is too much independence – we will have to focus on individual care plan
- Are young people ready for independence at the age of 16? Some young people will want to stay where they have been living for the last few years
- Is there an expectation to cut off from the young people straight away?
- Residential homes can have clauses in it so that they can remain residential homes but have the flexibilities (i.e. residential homes as semi-independent provisions)
- Danger of semi-independent – there is no fluidity – it tends to be either this or that
- How will we ensure smooth transition from one type of provision to another

Group 2 Feedback:

- Concern about age threshold not need threshold - It can't be age dependent but it must be down to readiness.
- If they can have more independence in their current children's home all the better.
- If they don't want a Reg 44 looking at their docs and looking into their life they still have that choice anyway under the children's regulations.
- Why not adapt Ch Homes Regs to allow for such flexibility instead

Group 3 Feedback:

- Concern about a level of naivety – good to hear positivity around regulation
- Ability for placing authorities to then look at this to be a process for then moving on - →16 children's home, 16/17 regulated semi-independent which is cheaper, 18+ non-regulated.
- Risk of 16yo who push to leave children's homes are typically the ones where you think they should not be living independently
- Who is going to make the right decision about the right place for the right child
- IRO? Still part of the placing authority...
- Part of the terminology of children's home is the problem – 16/17 don't want the stigma of children's homes
- There is already a high expectation that children's home run to 16 – often the very clear plan is for young people to move on at 16