



Thursday, 15 December 2022

## **National Review: Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs placed in residential settings**

Purpose of report: For Executive Director to take questions relevant to Surrey on the Doncaster Council investigation.

### **Introduction:**

1. In March 2021, Ofsted published a report following an assurance visit to Fullerton and Wilsic House in Doncaster. Both were registered children's homes with a registered residential school attached and owned by the Hesley Group. The residential provision offered residential care and education to disabled children and young adults with complex needs.
2. In May 2021, Surrey was informed by Doncaster Children's Services that an independent team would be undertaking a complex abuse investigation to the homes identified above. This was latterly extended to another residential home on the same site.
3. This investigation identified a range of concerning themes including neglect in the care, physical, emotional, psychological, potential sexual and financial, neglect and cruelty of children and young people. The matter was referred to the Children's National Safeguarding Panel.
4. In August 2022 the DfE / Children National Safeguarding Panel wrote to all Local Authorities in England requesting that an assurance activity be undertaken of all children placed in provision that was both registered as a Children's Home and school.

### **Next steps:**

5. Implement all recommendations from the findings of work undertaken by Surrey, Doncaster Abuse Investigation and DfE / Children's National Safeguarding Panel.
  6. Implement recommendations for improved practice with this vulnerable group of children / young adults.
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**Report contact**

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**Sources/background papers**

[Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings – Phase 1 Report](#)