

MEMORANDUM

To : Officers in Charge
Skegby Hall
Risley Hall
South Collingham Hall
Ashley House
Beechwood
Amberdale

From : The Director

Ref : DPA

Date :

Community Homes Regulations, 1972

At the Social Services Committee meeting on the 9th November, decisions were made regarding control of children. The purpose of this memorandum is to convey to you the effect of those decisions. There are two major issues -

1. Control via relationships
2. Additional measures of control

1. Control via relationships

The Community Home Regulations state that the control of a Community Home shall be maintained on the basis of good personal and professional relationships between the staff and the children who are resident therein. The Committee decision was that you be reminded of this and that sanctions other than corporal punishment should be sought first.

2. Additional measures of control

The local authority may approve in respect of each Home such additional measures of control as they consider necessary for the maintenance of control in the Home and the conditions under which such measures should be taken.

The Social Services Committee have taken this decision for the establishments mentioned at the head of this memorandum and it will be reviewed in twelve months' time. The specific measures and conditions are set out in Appendix A. The Committee stressed that corporal punishment should only be given as a last resort and that control should be maintained on the basis of good personal and professional relationships between the staff and children.

It is my wish that a copy of this memorandum together with the Appendix be given to each member of your staff now in post and to all future members of staff. You may feel it appropriate to retain a record showing that members of your staff acknowledge being given a copy of this memorandum and appendix. I should be glad if you would sign the attached memorandum and return it to me.

DPA

Director.

P.S. Arrangements are being made for the printing and distribution of the Punishment Books referred to in Paragraph 5 of Appendix A. In the meantime, a supply of single sheets incorporating the information required is enclosed for your use.

APPENDIX A

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

1. The only corporal punishment permitted in the named establishments shall be given with an approved light cane on the buttocks over normal daily attire. The number of strokes shall not exceed six. No other physical punishment is allowed.
2. No child under seven can be given corporal punishment.
3. The only person authorised to agree to corporal punishment shall be the head of the home or the responsible officer in charge when the head is absent on leave or due to sickness or other absence of more than one day.
4. The persons authorised to administer corporal punishment shall be the head or the responsible officer in charge in the presence of a witness and in the head of home's office. In the case of girls, the punishment must be administered by a senior female member of staff in the presence of the head or responsible officer in charge. No other member of staff may use any form of physical punishment.
5. All acts of corporal punishment must be recorded in a punishment book. This must indicate -
 - a. The circumstances leading to the decision to administer corporal punishment
 - b. The name and position of the person administering the punishment
 - c. The name and position of the witness
 - d. The number of strokes given
 - e. The place in the building where the punishment was administered
 - f. The signatures of the persons administering punishment and the witness
6. A copy of each entry must be sent to the Director of Social Services within 24 hours of the punishment being administered or on the first available working day following.