

Internal Investigation relating to Allegation made by [NO-A136] on 1st May 2017

Introduction Overview

On the 1st May 2017 young person ([NO-A136]) female resident of [DPA] made an allegation against another resident of [DPA] ([Child] male) claiming that he had raped her at 15:00hrs in her bedroom. The police were informed by [NO-A136] on a pay phone and also by staff at the home between 1830 and 1900. At 1935 Police Officers, PC Grant 3118 and PC Butler 2549 attended the house to speak to both Residents [NO-A136] and [Child] regarding the allegation she had made. The spoke to both residents separately, and both of them were accompanied by a member of staff. The Police spoke to Shift Leader Ashley Hinton informing her of the decision they had made and that they would be taking the case no further and classing it as a 'hoax call'. Both officers said that when [NO-A136] first phoned the police she was laughing and screaming down the phone with another person, and when the police spoke to her she wasn't taking the matter very seriously and was refusing to engage with the police, by laughing and joking and not answering the questions they asked her. The Police left no evidence of their decision, The police incident number is [DPA]

Because the Police were not taking the case any further, Daniel Yates (deputy manager) asked the social worker of [NO-A136], Kirsty Wardhaugh if it would be beneficial to complete an internal investigation to ascertain whether there was any opportunity for such an act to take place and consider the events that happened on 1st may 2017. Kirsty agreed that it would be beneficial and was more than happy for me to proceed with the investigation.

Kirsty Wardhaugh has since been out and spoke to [NO-A136] regarding the allegation she has made and [NO-A136] refused to speak about it. KW tried different approaches to address the matter but [NO-A136] point blank refused and walked off.

Sylvia Sutherland, Social worker to [Child] has also been out to speak to [Child] [Child] became upset and distressed and quite frustrated saying he hadn't done it and he would never do anything like that.

The investigation will also give a clear understanding on the level of supervision provided to the young people and also the whereabouts of all young people and staff throughout the afternoon when [NO-A136] alleged that this event took place.

There were four members of staff on the late shift at [DPA]; Senior Support Worker AH who was the shift lead. The other members of staff were LB, JH and HA (all support workers)

[DPA] is 5 bed residential homes in [DPA] which provides care for 5 residents;

- [NO-A136] female 11 years Section 31 since [DPA] 2016,
- [NO-A136] female 12 years Interim Care Order since [DPA] 2017.
- [NO-A136] female 15 years Section 20 since [DPA] 2016,
- [NO-A136] male 11 years Section 20 since [DPA] 2017
- [Child] male 11 Section 31 since [DPA] 2017,

1700 JH takes out [Child] for a walk and they head towards Woodthorpe park. The walk was [Child] idea as he likes to go out if he is feeling angry as it helps to calm him down and relax.

[Name Redacted] and [Name Redacted] all returned home from the activity at 1735, [Name Redacted] requests to phone his mum and his dad, this is supervised by AH. [Name Redacted] and [NO-A138] go into the dining to have their dinner. This is supervised by both LB and HA.

At 1815 [Name Redacted] gets off the phone to his dad and goes and eats his dinner in the dining room.

18:20hrs AH receives a note off [Name Redacted] stating [Name Redacted] feel really scared today, [Child] Raped me'. AH spoke to [NO-A138] about what was on the note.

18:35hrs [Name Redacted] and [Name Redacted] left [DPA] unauthorised and were followed by staff members HA and LB, at 1855 [NO-A138] LB & HA returned to the home and [NO-A138] states she had rang the police to say she had been raped by [Child].

19:35hrs the police arrived at [DPA] to speak to [NO-A138] and to [Child].

20:00hrs The police speak to the shift leader AH and inform her they will not be taking the case on and they will be classing it as a Hoax call, due to [NO-A138] not taking the matter seriously, laughing and joking when being spoken to and also laughing, joking and screaming down the phone when she rang the police.

Interviews with staff on Duty

In order to write the following sequence of events I interviewed LB, HA and JH as they were all on shift at the time [Name Redacted] states the incident happened. AH has not been interviewed as she was out on activity with [Name Redacted] and [Name Redacted], but her Incident report is a true reflection of what happened once the note was given to AH.

On the afternoon of 1st May 2017 at approximately 14:20hrs, AH takes [Name Redacted] and [Name Redacted] to the cinema to help separate the young people to minimise any opportunity of an incident occurring as the young people were displaying heightened excitable behaviours, These behaviours were not sexualised in any way.

[Child] and [Name Redacted] and staff members LB and HA remain at [DPA], they receive a phone call from Holly House informing them that JH is on his way and will be a little bit late due to traffic.

[Child] and [Name Redacted] were told that if they can behave for the remainder of the afternoon then they can go on an activity together in the afternoon.

[NO-A138] and [Child] are in the living room at 14:40hrs onwards and are being supervised by HA. They are watching TV and also doing arts and crafts, whilst LB is completing paperwork in the office whilst the house is settled. [Name Redacted] and [Child] are playing with a fake tattoo's kit, at 15:10hrs [NO-A138] starts to be inappropriate with the tattoo's by trying to stick them to her body in inappropriate places. HA challenged [Name Redacted] twice before she stopped doing it and the sticker tattoo kit was put away.

running right out of the drive and up towards [DPA] road. AH, JH and LB all leave to find all of the young people.

At 19:15hrs the police recognise [] and [] and walk back to [DPA] with them and staff members AH, JH and LB. AH manages to convince [child] to come back to the house also. Everyone arrived at [DPA] at 1930.

PC Grant speaks to [] at around 19:30hrs regarding the allegation made. [] was laughing and joking about and was struggling to engage with the police and taking the matter seriously. [] was supervised by HA and LB. [child] then spoke to PC Butler at about 19:50hrs and appeared very upset and distressed and insisted he hadn't done anything. [child] was supervised AH.

PC Grant and PC Butler spoke to AH and they informed her that the case won't be going any further due to [] laughing, joking and screaming down the phone when she rang the police and also because she wasn't taking the matter seriously when they questioned her. They said they would be classing it as a Hoax Call.

Conclusion

To conclude this investigation, which includes the involvement of the police and their decision not to proceed any further, I can conclude that due of the supervision levels of the staff at the time their accounts being consistent with other records held within the home the outcome must be 'unsubstantiated'.

Due to the supervision of the young people throughout the day there was minimal time or opportunity where the young people were unsupervised for such an act to take place. However, due to the nature of the sequence of events and fact that the children are not on constant supervision it cannot be concluded that there is no possibility that this occurred.

Supporting Documents:

- Incident Report – Written by Ashley Hinton
- Supporting statement regarding conversation with [] – Holly Percival
- Interview notes with – Lisa Bedward, Josh Horvarth, Harmish Ark
- Emails to Social workers – [Name Redacted], Syliva Sutherland
- Copies of the daily log for the 1.3.2017
- AH summary of the log

Evidence of meeting attended on the 23.05.17 at 15:00, this meeting was attended by EA, JP, MG, JC, MR and KE - To discuss the placement profile at DPA.



Follow Up Action

- * EA to update the safety plan and re-send to all social workers, MR and KE to be copied in. This will allow all case managers to have the opportunity to contribute.
- * KE to contact the MASH team to see if any further police involvement is required.
- * EA to continue with plans to "repair" NO-A136 and Child relationship.
- * EA to implement a sexualised behaviour tracking log for ALL residents at the home.
- * EA to follow up with NO-A136's social worker, regarding the referral to IMARA.

DPA

Elaine Ashmore
Registered Home
Manager
23.05.17