

Report at December 2016

Required under Part 7 Section 23 (1)(d) and section 23 (2) (a)

Aleana House is the base of children's respite services provided by Ard Aoibhinn Services. Aleana house strives to provide a respite service under a family centred framework. There is close liaison with parents/guardians, healthcare professionals and school teachers which ensure a high standard of service delivery resulting in a respite service that is tailored to meet the individual needs of the children. Other agencies closely affiliated with Aleana House include primary and secondary schools attended by the service users, liaison nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, behaviour Specialist and various other members of the multi-disciplinary team.

Aleana house caters for children under the age of 18 years with an intellectual disability and/or autism who may also present with high medical/physical needs and/or behaviours that challenge. Referrals for Aleana House are made through the family support allocation team. Children are usually referred in to this team by the LNC or Social worker. The majority of children who attend Aleana House also attend their local primary school or St Patricks School in Enniscorthy.

Services provided:

- An after school service operates on week days offering evening respite to children. As part of this service children are supported with their homework when needed, enjoy social activities within the community and are assisted supported to achieve their individual goals as identified in their individualised support plans.
- During 2016 residential respite break took place every second weekend. This service was increased again in August to facilitate children and their families during school holidays.
- Saturday day respite services continued to run from 11-5pm weekly during 2016
- Throughout 2016 Aleana House have been providing home based respite services to a few families. This allows respite to be carried out in familiar surroundings within the child's home.

All of these services place an emphasis on the individual needs of the child. Activities, care plans and overall service provision are adapted the meeting the ever changing need of the child.

Throughout the year Aleana House has made every effort to accommodate parent's special requests for both residential and day respite. Aleana House has always used a cancellation list. Children who have been prioritised by the FASAT group were given the opportunity to avail of extra respite if and when a last minute cancellation arose. This was the case for both residential and after school respite.

This year all children enjoyed a very busy schedule of activities while in Aleana House. Children were supported to take part in various activities. These included horse riding, swimming, bowling, cinema, social outings, creative and sensory play and developing and learning of life skills. Children, where needed availed of individualised Behavioural programmes to assist personal Development.

Review of Safety and Quality of care and support:

Each Child on admission has a document called 'All about me' completed in conjunction with the child's parent/guardian. This document sets out the expectations and wishes of the child and their support needs. A respite review summary form is also completed for each child on each occasion of respite break. Where a child attends irregularly this document would be reviewed with the parent prior to re-admission to a residential break.

Yearly reviews have taken place for all children and their families during 2016. Children who are being supported by the Behavioural Specialist have had their Behavioural support plans reviewed throughout the year with the staff team receiving regular input and advice from the Behavioural Specialist.

Records of "Daily Respite Plans" are located in a folder in Aleana house office. The children's "Likes and Dislikes folder" regarding food preferences or allergies is located in the kitchen. This is beneficial as it ensures children who have difficulties in communicating food preferences are clearly understood. Children and their families are involved in menu setting and where possible children are involved in food preparation as part of their schedule of activities. Baking or pizza making are some of the children particular favourites.

Aleana continues to implemented visual choice folders and has a white board on display in the sitting room in order that children can identify which staff are on duty as well as a choice of activities and menu.

Health and Safety:

Ard Aoibhinn Organisational Health and safety Policy in Located in Aleana House. The Ancillary Safety Statement for Aleana can be found in the Health and Safety folder in Aleana. This was reviewed in July 2016 by Dermot Wallace CNM1 and Geraldine Roche CNM3 and is reviewed annually. A review of the Hazard identification and risk assessment safety work sheet for Aleana House also took place in July 2016

Fire Drills are carried out on a monthly basis ensuring that all staff and Children are involved in same. All fire safety equipment serviced as and when required by the company "Master fire" under contract.

All children who have presented with difficulties while evacuating the house have individual fire evacuation plans in their file. These are place in the child's bedroom when attending for respite and are reviewed regularly.

- Cleaning schedules and fire checks carried out as per schedule.
- Children's individual risk assessment reviewed as required.
- Risk assessments pertaining to Health and safety concerns reviewed as required.
- Manual handling equipment, beds and wheelchairs all serviced as required.
- Maintenance issues arising in Aleana continue to be reported with good effect to the HSE maintenance department.
- Painting of front hall, kitchen and bedrooms completed over Christmas
- Deep clean of House and activation building carried out following August residential services.

Staffing

- CNM1 is on Maternity leave and in her absence CNM1 Dermot Wallace is covering
- Aleana House have regular staff meetings throughout the year. Minutes of each meeting are kept with same held in staff meeting folder in Aleana.
- Staff continue to meet with Behavioural Specialist with regards to children's behavioural support plans. Behavioural Specialist provides onsite training and advice to all staff regarding various behaviours which may be challenging.
- Supervision with CNM1 continued during 2016
- All staff meet prior to residential weekend to plan and prepare for same.
- Help1 community worker commenced working every second Saturday in Aleana during 2016
- This year staff received training in....

Staff Structure

Board of Management

Manager of Services

Gerard Heaney

CNM3 (PIC)

Geraldine Roche

CNM1

Katie Whelan

Dermot Wallace (maternity cover)

Care Staff

Samantha Monahan

Karen Weston

Tammy Murphy

Staff Nurse

Aoife Byrne

Sheila Richardson

Relief staff and community employment worker

Goals for 2017

- To provide a fun and enjoyable child centred service which is both meaningful and enjoyable for all children
- To maintain our positive and productive relationship with families/ guardian, schools and other services.
- To continue to support families and their children with their behaviour support plans.
- To assist families and children who may be transitioning to adult services over the next year.
- To continue to support the children to have a meaningful role in planning and choosing activities while in Aleana on respite, which takes into consideration their likes and dislikes.
- To meet with all children and their families for their annual review and to ensure that all key people have a role to play in setting new goals for 2017.
- To continue with on-going staff supervision
- To ensure staff are updated in all area of training as required.
- To ensure regular file audits are conducted and that all information, documentation and files are up to date.

Conclusion

Aleana House continues to provide high quality child centred respite Services. 2016 has been a very busy and productive year for all in Aleana with an emphasis being placed fun meaningful activities for all. The overall goal being that the children will be introduced to new learning experiences and in turn have the opportunity to learn new life skills.

Staff in Aleana continue to show great enthusiasm and flexibility in the manner in which delivered respite services to all the children in Aleana. As a provider we continue to strive to provide a holistic and child focused approach to the delivery of care, designed to meet the current and ever changing needs of each individual child.