

Report at December 2017

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 2017 residential respite break took place every second weekend. This service was increased again in August to facilitate children and their families during school holidays. The service was reconfigured during this period to facilitate more children attending during July and August.
- Saturday day respite services continued to run from 11-5pm weekly during 2017
- Throughout 2017 Aleana House have continued to provide home based respite and home from home services to specified families. This allows respite to be carried out in familiar surroundings within the child's home or host families home
- 2017 saw the commencement of a 'youth club' group on one Friday per month for pre-teens and teenagers. The purpose of this group is to assist and support the children in social development and preparing them for mainstream community clubs.

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 specific requests for both residential and day respite. Aleana House has always used a cancellation list. Children who have been prioritised by the Family Support Allocation Team (FSAT) are given the opportunity to avail of additional respite when a cancellation occurs.

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 while also developing and learning life skills. Children, where needed availed of individualised Behavioural support programmes to assist personal development.

Review of Safety and Quality of care and support:

Each Child on admission has all documentation submitted from the FSAT team. This includes referral form, consent form, prioritisation form, information form, assessment report and any other reports that may be available such as assessment of need or psychology .

On admission to respite a document called 'All about me' is completed using the information provided and in consultation 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. This form is sent to parents with their respite pack prior to residential respite break.

Annual reviews have taken place for all children and their families during 2017. 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 and therapist.

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's particular favourites. There is also a folder that contains "My Diet Sheet". This is where staff record what each child eats throughout each day.

A "life skills" document is located in each child's file. Staff record and monitor progress in all areas of 'life skills'. This document helps staff support the children appropriately with life skills development.

Aleana continues to implement visual choice folders and has a white board on display in the sitting room which displays visual information. These aids support children regarding activity choice, menu planning and identifying which staff are on duty.

There is a transition policy in place for all children turning 18 years this supports both the child and his/her family transitioning into adult services.

A sub group of the Board of Management was established late 2017 to consider aspects of Quality of care. To date 1 meeting has occurred to look at how they can conduct the work. There were also sub groups established for financial matters and Health & safety.

Health and Safety:

Ard Aoi bhinn Organisational Health and safety Policy is 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 2017 by CNM1 and CNM3. A review of the hazard identification and risk assessment for Aleana House also took place in July 2017.

Fire Drills are carried out on a regular basis. All staff and Children are involved in same. All fire safety equipment serviced as and when required.

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

Regular check and reviews are carried out within the home as outlined below

- 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.
- Deep clean of House and activation building carried out following August residential service

Staffing

- CNM1 returned from maternity leave in July of 2017.
- Aleana House have staff meetings throughout the year.
- Staff continue to meet with Behavioural Specialist/therapist with regards to children's behavioural support plans. Behavioural Specialist/ therapist provides onsite training and advice to all staff regarding various behaviours which may be challenging.
- Supervision continued throughout 2017.
- All staff meet prior to residential weekend to plan and prepare for same.
- CE community worker continued working every second Saturday in Aleana during 2017
- This year staff received training in Adult Protection, Child Protection update, Buccal Midazolam, Diabetes awareness, Fire Safety Training, First Aid, Heart Saver CPR & AED.

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

Sheila Richardson

Relief staff and community employment worker

Goals for 2018

- To provide a fun and enjoyable child and family centred service which is both meaningful and enjoyable for all children
- To maintain our positive and productive relationship with families/ guardian, schools, members of the MDT team and other services.
- To continue to support families and their children with their behaviour support plans.
- To continue 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 continue to meet with all children, their families, the school and members of the MDT team for their annual review and to ensure that all key people have a role to play in setting new goals for 2018.
- To continues 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.
- As Aleana is celebrating its 10 year anniversary in 2018 – we would like to be able to mark this significant achievement over the summer months.

Conclusion

Aleana House continues to provide high quality child and family centred respite service. 2017 has been a very busy and productive year for all in Aleana. The aim of Aleana House is to engage the child in fun meaningful activities, ensuring that they are safe at all times. The overall goal being that the children will be introduced to new learning experiences and in turn have the opportunity to continue 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 staff Team 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.



Gerard Heaney

Manager of Services