

PROJECT TITLE: MONITORING THE PROVISION FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN CHILDREN'S HOMES

Goal:

To establish screening and monitoring structures for the protection of children in care homes

Background and Rationale:

The care and safeguarding of children in children's homes is guided by the 'Setting the Standards for Quality care: An audit of children's care home provision in Seychelles' manual (December 2016). In 2017, the Department of Social Affairs hosted a workshop on standards in children's homes. The standards were discussed and it was decided that the implementation of Standard 19 on "managing effectively and efficiently and monitoring the home" amongst others needed to be evaluated as it was felt that many of the guidelines associated with this standard were not being respected.

Three main priority areas were identified: the roles and responsibilities of staff, monitoring and controlling activities within the home, and record-keeping practices in compliance with the home's policy. Moreover, suggestions were made about the training of staff. This needs to be well structured, integrative so that all staff at different levels with different learning skills can benefit. It was also proposed that the installation of technological devices, such as cameras need to be introduced to assist in monitoring childcare practices. Abuse, misbehavior or inappropriate behaviour and even false accusations can be recorded. Within ethical boundaries, recording telephone calls inside care homes will also help with monitoring the wellbeing of children. The staff is expected to keep a number of records. These include: administrative records, accident book, sanctions book, medical record book, logbook, hand-over book, and individual reports on children.

One of the monitoring aspects which will be attended to in this project is the assisted supervision through the use of surveillance devices. It is anticipated that staff will be trained on the guidelines associated with Standard 19 on child care practices and protection and that the surveillance tools will help to monitor the implementation of those guidelines.

Description:

The Social Services Department will oversee the implementation of this project in two homes: Foyer de La Providence and the Foyer de Nazareth. This project entails open surveillance technology, which will include CCTV and telephone call recorders. The Department of Social Affairs will partner with Pilgrims Security Ltd and Cable & Wireless for the installation of the devices. Processing of the surveillance information will be carried out by a professional trained in Child Protection.

The project has been conceived in three parts:

- The first part will involve collecting baseline information from the two homes upon the installation of the camera devices. A checklist comprising of key information relating to child protection such as abuse, neglect and safety concerns will be devised and observation will take place for one to two weeks.
- Part two of the project will involve taking action based on the information gathered from the baseline. Concerns or issues will be addressed through the training of staff on child protection procedures.
- Part three will focus on assessing compliance with the standards. Surveillance data will be recorded and analysed every three months. The information will also be used for on-going training.

Budget Narrative:

The estimated cost of the project is SCR 134,300 and it will include:

- Labour cost for installing these monitoring devices
- Monitoring and upkeep of the devices
- Training by the Security Firm on the use of the devices
- Training for staff on the implementation of Child Protection Standards

Expected Outcome:

- Staff complying to child protection standards

Performance Indicators • Level of compliance to the standards • Reduction in the number of child protection issues • Improved practice in the care and protection of children