



POLICE INVOLVEMENT POLICY

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1. Introduction to the Policy

This policy sets out the framework, principles, and procedures that **Byram House** follows when considering or managing police involvement in incidents involving children and young people in our care. The policy applies to all staff, agency workers, volunteers, and contractors working at Byram House, whether at 62 Deighton Road, 66 Deighton Road, or elsewhere.

The Home is Byram House, which comprises the two residences at 62 Deighton Road and 66 Deighton Road. This policy applies equally across both residences.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all staff understand when it is appropriate to involve the police and how to do so in a way that safeguards children, avoids unnecessary criminalisation, and maintains positive working relationships with local police services.

This policy is informed by the **Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015** (Positive Relationships Standard, Protection of Children Standard, Regulation 40 – Notifiable Events), the **Statutory Guidance on Children who go Missing from Care 2014** (updated 2024), and the **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026** framework.

The home recognises that caring for children with challenging behaviour is an integral part of residential care. Police involvement should be a last resort, not a routine behaviour management tool. The home is committed to a **restorative justice approach** wherever possible and to reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked-after children.

2. How this Policy Benefits the Home

This Police Involvement Policy benefits Byram House in the following ways:

- **Legal Compliance** – It ensures compliance with the **Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015** (Regulation 40), the **Human Rights Act 1998** (Article 8 – private and family life), the **Crime and Policing Bill 2025-2026** (new notification requirements for child cruelty offenders), and the **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026**.
- **Child Protection** – It ensures that police are involved only when there is a genuine risk of significant harm, serious crime, or threat to public safety, thereby protecting children from unnecessary criminalisation.
- **Clarity for Staff** – It sets out clear categories of incidents (serious, not serious, liaison, internal) and provides decision-making factors (e.g., severity, wishes of victim, availability of restorative approaches).
- **Multi-Agency Working** – It promotes the development of effective relationships with local policing teams, PCSOs, the Youth Offending Service (YOS), and social workers.
- **Restorative Justice** – It encourages the use of restorative approaches (e.g., apology, reparation, mediation) as an alternative to police involvement for low-level incidents.
- **Hate Crime** – It provides guidance on distinguishing hate crime from lower-level discriminatory behaviour, and mandates staff training.
- **Recording and Accountability** – It requires incident reports and daily logs for all police-involved incidents, and ensures that Ofsted is notified under Regulation 40 when required.
- **Inspection Readiness** – The **Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) 2026** expects the home to have a clear police involvement policy that balances safeguarding and the child’s best interests.
- **Training Framework** – It sets out annual training for staff on using the policy, working with police, and applying restorative approaches.

3. Definitions & Legislation

3.1 Definitions

Term	Definition
Home	Byram House, the children's home registered with Ofsted, comprising two residences at 62 Deighton Road and 66 Deighton Road.
Company	IMS Care LTD, the registered provider and legal entity responsible for operating Byram House.
Byram House	The name used throughout this policy to refer to the home and its staff.
Police Involvement	Any situation where police are called to the home, a crime is reported to the police, or a child is arrested, charged, or interviewed by police in connection with an incident.
Serious Incident	An incident where there is an immediate risk of serious physical harm to a child or adult, substantial damage to property, or significant disorder in or around the home.
Not Serious Incident	An incident where harm has occurred (e.g., low-level assault, minor damage) but the risk of recurrence or significant harm is low and can be managed without immediate police response.
Liaison	Non-urgent contact with local policing teams to discuss a child's behaviour or to seek advice, not involving a formal police response.
Internal Incident	An incident that is dealt with entirely within the home's behaviour management and safeguarding processes, without police involvement.

Restorative Justice	An approach that focuses on the harm caused by behaviour and seeks to repair it through dialogue, apology, reparation, and reintegration, rather than punishment.
Hate Crime	Any criminal offence perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity, or disability.
Youth Offending Service (YOS)	A multi-agency team that works with young people who have committed offences or are at risk of offending.
Regulation 40 Notification	A statutory notification to Ofsted of a serious event, required within 24 hours of the incident.

3.2 Key Legislation and Statutory Guidance

Legislation / Guidance	Key Provisions	Relevance to this Policy
Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015	Regulation 40 – notification of serious events (police involvement, serious injury, arrest) to Ofsted. Positive Relationships Standard – homes should avoid unnecessary police involvement.	The home must report certain police-related incidents to Ofsted. The home must not use police as a routine behaviour management tool.
Human Rights Act 1998	Article 8 – right to respect for private and family life.	Police involvement that is disproportionate or unnecessary could breach a child's Article 8 rights.

Crime and Policing Bill 2025-2026	Introduces new notification requirements for child cruelty offenders, strengthening monitoring beyond licence periods.	The home must inform the police if a known child cruelty offender is present on or near the premises, or if a child is at risk from such an individual.
Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026	Received Royal Assent 29 April 2026. Enhances information sharing duties between agencies.	Improves the home's ability to share information with police and local authorities when police involvement is required.
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026	Published March 2026. Strengthens multi-agency accountability, including joint working with police on serious incidents.	The home must co-operate with police and safeguarding partners in any investigation relating to a child in the home.
Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) for Children's Homes 2026	Effective 1 April 2026. Inspects the home's relationship with police and its effectiveness in avoiding unnecessary criminalisation.	Inspectors will review whether the home uses police appropriately and whether children's rights are respected.
Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999	Provides special measures for child witnesses and victims in criminal proceedings.	The home must support any child who is a victim or witness in a criminal investigation.
Sentencing Act 2020	Sets out the framework for sentencing children, including referral orders and youth rehabilitation orders.	The home must support the Youth Offending Service in implementing any court orders.

Statutory Guidance on Children who go Missing from Care (DfE, 2014, updated 2024)	Requires police to be notified without delay when a child is missing from care and the risk assessment indicates high risk.	The home must follow this guidance for missing episodes, and police involvement is mandatory in certain circumstances.
Restorative Justice Council (RJC) Best Practice Guidance (2022)	Provides principles for restorative practice in children's homes.	The home should consider restorative approaches as an alternative to police involvement for lower-level incidents.

4. The Policy

4.1 General Principles and Working Relationship with Police

Byram House will:

- Develop and maintain **effective working relationships** with the local police force, including the local policing team and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).
- **Agree joint procedures** with the local police on police involvement, to reduce unnecessary police attendance and avoid criminalisation of behaviours that would not lead to police involvement in a family home.
- Ensure that the **police are not called as a form of behaviour management** – this is strictly prohibited.
- Ensure that all police involvement is based on a **dynamic risk assessment** and is proportionate, reasonable, and in the best interests of the child.

Key contacts:

- The Registered Manager will maintain a relationship with the local policing team and hold their contact details.
- Where possible, a named officer will be identified to act as a liaison for the home.
- For missing children, the police missing person unit will be the first point of contact (101 or 999).

Restorative justice: For low-level incidents (e.g., minor damage, theft, verbal abuse), staff will consider a **restorative justice approach** instead of police involvement. This may include a facilitated meeting between the child and the affected person, an apology, or reparation.

4.2 When Police Involvement May Be Necessary – Thresholds

Police involvement must be considered **only when:**

- There is a risk of **immediate serious physical harm** to a child, staff member, or other person;
- A **serious criminal offence** has been committed (e.g., assault causing actual or grievous bodily harm, sexual assault, arson, supply of drugs);
- A child is **missing from care** and the risk assessment (e.g., Philomena Passport) indicates high risk, or the child has been missing for a prolonged period (e.g., overnight);
- There is **substantial damage to property** or risk of significant disorder that cannot be managed internally;
- A **child is at risk of exploitation** (CSE, county lines, radicalisation) and police can provide immediate protection;
- The home is required to make a **Regulation 40 notification** to Ofsted and the police have already been involved (or their involvement is necessary to establish facts);
- A **court order** requires police involvement (e.g., a child is subject to a court order with a police enforcement clause);
- There is a **risk to the public** (e.g., a child has absconded and may be a danger to others).

The police must not be called for minor incidents that can be resolved through the home’s behaviour management, restorative justice, or referral to Youth Offending Service. Examples include: low-level rudeness, minor damage (under £50), fights between children that have been resolved without injury.

4.3 Aggression by a Child on Another Child

For incidents ranging from minor disagreements to serious assaults, the home must consider the following factors before deciding to involve the police:

Factor	Consideration
Wishes of the victim	Does the victim want police involvement? (But safeguarding overrides wishes if there is a risk of serious harm.)
Severity of injury	Minor bruising vs fractures, head injuries, or injuries requiring hospitalisation.

Probability of repeat incident	Is this a one-off or part of a pattern of bullying or abuse?
Relationship between the children	Is there a power imbalance (age, size, disability)?
Impact of police involvement on the child	Could it cause further trauma, or is it necessary to protect others?
Effectiveness of police action	Would a formal caution or court proceedings be proportionate?
Restorative alternatives	Could a restorative justice meeting achieve a better outcome (apology, reparation)?
Message to other children	Would not involving the police send the wrong message about acceptable behaviour?

Process:

- The Registered Manager (or senior person on duty) will conduct a risk assessment.
- If police involvement is deemed necessary, the decision will be recorded, and the police will be contacted via 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency).
- The child's social worker must be informed.
- An incident report will be completed.

4.4 Aggression to Adults by a Child

The home recognises that children may display aggression towards staff due to trauma, distress, or unmet needs. Staff will follow the **Behaviour Support Policy** and de-escalation techniques.

Where there is no continuing threat: Staff should take time to consider options before reporting to police. These options include:

- A restorative justice conversation with the child.
- A referral to the **Youth Offending Service (YOS)** via the child's social worker.
- A team meeting to review the child's ISP and risk assessment.

Police involvement should be considered only when:

- The adult has sustained a **serious injury** (e.g., fracture, loss of consciousness, injury requiring hospital treatment).
- The child's behaviour is **part of a pattern** of serious violence that is not responding to internal interventions.
- The child has made **threats to kill** or use of a weapon.
- The adult wishes to press charges, and the risk assessment supports that this is in the child's best interests (e.g., to access specialist support).

The Registered Manager must approve any decision to involve police for aggression towards staff, unless the incident is so serious that immediate police response is essential (e.g., a child is actively assaulting a staff member with a weapon). In that case, staff must call 999 and inform the manager as soon as possible.

Post-incident: Following any police involvement, the Registered Manager will arrange a debrief for staff and a review of the child's ISP.

4.5 Criminal Damage within the Home

Low-level damage (e.g., broken mug, torn poster) will be dealt with through the home's behaviour management and restorative justice (e.g., child apologises, helps clean up, or contributes to replacement cost from their pocket money, if appropriate).

Police involvement should be considered only when:

- The damage is **substantial** (e.g., smashed window, destroyed TV, damage to structural elements).
- There is a **risk of fire** or health and safety hazard.
- The damage is part of a **pattern of escalating behaviour**.

- An **insurance claim requires a crime reference number**.

Factors to consider:

- Level/value of damage.
- Previous incidents of similar damage by the child.
- Availability of restorative alternatives.
- Message to other children.

Process: The Registered Manager makes the decision. If police are called, a crime reference number will be obtained and recorded.

4.6 Theft within the Home or Placement

Most theft within the home is of low value (e.g., food, small items). These will be dealt with through restorative justice.

Police involvement should be considered when:

- The value is **significant** (e.g., theft of staff's personal valuables, company equipment over £100).
- The theft is **repeated** and internal interventions have failed.
- A **police report is required for insurance**.
- The victim (e.g., a staff member) insists on involving the police, and this is not contradicted by the child's best interests.

Staff are required to store personal property securely. The home will not be liable for items not stored in locked lockers.

4.7 Criminal Damage to Adult Cars or Property

Damage to a staff member's car or personal property is treated seriously, as it may affect staff morale and retention.

Factors to consider:

- Severity of damage (scratch vs smashed windscreen).
- Whether the damage was intentional or accidental.
- Cost of repair and insurance requirements.
- Wishes of the victim (staff member).
- Availability of restorative alternatives (e.g., child apologises and contributes to repair costs, supervised to avoid repeat).

Police involvement should be considered only for deliberate, significant damage, or if the staff member wishes to press charges. The Registered Manager will support the staff member in making a decision and will ensure that the child's social worker is informed.

4.8 Disorder in or Around the Home

Low-level disorder (e.g., loud arguments, children shouting in the garden) will be managed internally.

Police involvement should be considered when:

- There is a **threat of violence** to people or property.
- **Trespass by unknown persons** (e.g., associates of children who are not authorised to be on the premises). In such cases, the police will be called under the **Harassment Act 1997** or the **Trespass Act**.
- The disorder is affecting the **local community** (e.g., complaints from neighbours).
- The disorder is part of a **pattern** of antisocial behaviour.

The home will work with police to ensure that any criminal conduct (e.g., drug dealing on the premises) is dealt with promptly.

4.9 Substance Misuse (Controlled Drugs)

This section should be read in conjunction with the **Substance Misuse Policy**.

Police involvement is mandatory when:

- A child is found in possession of a **controlled drug** with intent to supply (e.g., large quantity, scales, cash).
- A **non-resident adult** is found on the premises supplying drugs to a child.
- A child has **overdosed** on a controlled substance (call 999 for ambulance, police may attend automatically).

Police involvement should be considered, but not automatic, when:

- A child is found with a **small quantity** of a Class B or C drug (e.g., cannabis) for personal use. The home may decide to confiscate and destroy the drug, inform the social worker, and use a restorative approach, rather than calling the police. However, any supply (even small) should be reported.

Process for confiscation: If staff suspect drugs, they will follow the **Substance Misuse Policy** – two-witness rule, secure storage, and, where necessary, police collection.

The home will always call police if there is any suspicion of child sexual exploitation linked to substance misuse (e.g., child is being coerced into drug dealing or sexual activity in exchange for drugs).

4.10 Hate Crime (Racist, Religious, Homophobic, Transphobic, Disablist)

The home distinguishes between **low-level discriminatory behaviour** (often arising from ignorance) and **deliberate hate crime**.

Low-level behaviour (e.g., a child using racist language without fully understanding its impact) will be dealt with through **education, positive ethos, and restorative justice**. The child will be supported to understand why the language is harmful. The victim will be supported.

Police involvement should be considered when:

- The behaviour is **repeated** despite interventions.
- The behaviour is **deliberate and malicious** (e.g., hate graffiti, physical assault motivated by hate, threats of violence).
- The victim wishes to press charges, or the incident is so serious that it meets the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) threshold for hate crime.

Recording: All hate incidents (whether or not they are crimes) will be recorded in the home’s incident report, with the following minimum data:

- Reported to (name of staff member, police officer, etc.)
- Location reported at (home, police station, etc.)
- Referred by (agency or person referring the victim to police)
- Time, date, and nature of incident.

Staff training: The Registered Manager will ensure that all staff are trained in dealing with reports of racist, homophobic, transphobic, and disablist incidents. Staff will not be tasked with handling such reports without adequate training.

4.11 Serious Incidents, Notifications and Categories of Police Response

The home classifies incidents into four categories for police response:

Category	Definition	Action
Serious Incident	Immediate risk of serious physical harm, substantial property damage, significant disorder, or risk of public harm.	Call 999 (police emergency). Inform Registered Manager immediately. Must also be reported to Ofsted under Regulation 40.

Not Serious Incident	Harm has occurred but risk of recurrence or significant harm is low; can be managed without immediate police response.	Do not call 999. Discuss with Registered Manager. The manager may decide to contact the local policing team for advice, or to refer to YOS.
Liaison	No immediate risk; general advice or relationship building with police.	Arrange a meeting with the local policing team (PCSO or community officer) at a convenient time. No emergency call.
Internal Incident	The incident can be fully managed by the home's behaviour management, restorative justice, and safeguarding processes.	No police involvement. Record as internal incident on Clear Care.

Notifications after police involvement:

- If police are called to the home during office hours, the Registered Manager will notify the **Responsible Individual** and the child's social worker.
- If police are called out of hours, the **On Call Manager** will be informed, and an email will be sent to the Registered Manager.
- For any serious incident that leads to an arrest, hospitalisation, or significant property damage, a **Regulation 40 notification** will be made to Ofsted within 24 hours.

Preservation of evidence: In any incident where police involvement is likely, staff will preserve any evidence (e.g., clothing, broken items, weapons) and not clean the area until police have attended, unless it is unsafe to leave.

4.12 Recording and Reporting

The following records must be completed for any incident involving police:

- **Incident Report** on Clear Care (within 24 hours or before end of shift) – describing the nature of the incident, the decision-making process, the names of officers, the crime reference number (if any), and any actions taken.
- **Daily Log** – a brief entry summarising the police involvement.
- **Regulation 40 Notification** – completed by the Registered Manager if required (see separate Regulation 40 procedure).

The incident report must include:

- Date and time police were called.
- Name and badge number of the attending officer(s).
- Outcome (e.g., child arrested, cautioned, no further action).
- Details of any injuries or damage.
- Any advice given by the police.

The incident report will be shared with the child's social worker and the placing authority within 48 hours (or 72 hours if a weekend/bank holiday).

5. How the Home Trains its Staff About this Policy

Byram House provides structured training to ensure all staff understand and can implement this Police Involvement Policy effectively.

Training Element	Frequency	Method / Content
Induction	Upon appointment	Face-to-face training covering: the four categories of police response (serious, not serious, liaison, internal), decision-making factors (victim's wishes, seriousness, restorative alternatives), hate crime, substance misuse referrals, recording obligations, Regulation 40 notifications, and the dual-site operation (62 & 66 Deighton Road).
Annual refresher	Every 12 months	Classroom or virtual session covering updates to legislation (Working Together 2026, SCCIF 2026, Crime and Policing Bill 2025-2026), case studies, and refresher on using restorative justice.
Restorative justice training	At induction and biennially	Training on facilitating restorative justice meetings, including apology and reparation, and when it is appropriate as an alternative to police involvement.
Hate crime awareness	Annually	Training on recognising hate crime, distinguishing it from low-level discriminatory behaviour, reporting to police, and supporting victims.
Working with police and YOS	As needed (e.g., for managers)	Training on liaising with local policing teams, the Youth Offending Service, and understanding their roles.
Regulation 40 notifications	At induction for managers	Training on when police involvement triggers a Regulation 40 notification, how to complete it, and the 24-hour deadline.

Record keeping	At induction and refresh	Training on completing incident reports for police-involved incidents, including preserving evidence.
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Staff are required to:

- Read and sign this policy annually.
- Complete all mandatory training.
- Never call police as a behaviour management tool.
- Consult the Registered Manager before calling police for non-emergency incidents.
- Immediately call 999 for serious incidents (risk of serious harm, substantial damage, disorder) and inform the manager as soon as possible.

6. Related Policies and Guidance

This policy must be read in conjunction with:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Support Policy
- Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy
- Missing From Care Policy
- Substance Misuse Policy
- Incident Reporting Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026
- Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) for Children’s Homes 2026

- Local safeguarding partnership procedures (Kirklees)
- Restorative Justice Council guidance

7. Policy Approval and Review Details



Byram House

Policy Name	POLICE INVOLVEMENT POLICY	
Home	Byram House	
Reviewed by	Danyaal Iqbal / Mustafa Amin	Deputy Manager / Registered Manager
Approved by	Stacey Wagstaffe	Responsible Individual
Date	May 2026	