



Safeguarding Children Service
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Victor Penn Steynor – Dyke House

In 2008, through the Allegations Management process Gloucestershire managed a child protection issue relating to a sexual offence against a child. The offence/conviction is in the public domain and has previously been shared. However, due to continuing concerns about children outside of Gloucestershire being at potential risk, the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board (GSCB) has, in line with Working Together 2006, taken the decision that for the effective protection of children, the following information is to be re-distributed;

Dyke House is a large property situated within 70 acres on the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire border. It is used as a holiday residential unit for children and young people, particularly those from religious youth groups. The accommodation can take up to 120 people and includes a large outdoor swimming pool. Dyke House is not a residential home or a place of education and does not require registration with OfSTED or CSCI.

The property and site are owned by Mr Victor Penn Steynor. In June 2007, Mr Steynor was convicted of a sexual offence against a child staying at the site in the 1980s. He was given a 3 year Community Rehabilitation Order and is required to sign the Sex Offenders Register for a period of 5 years. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not comment on individual cases but has confirmed that any individuals who are cautioned or convicted for sexual offences involving children are barred from working with children, regardless of the circumstances of their employment. Mr Steynor maintains that he does not work with the children and young people staying at Dyke House but he lives on site and manages the facilities.

Gloucestershire does not have a definitive list of those youth groups using the facilities at Dyke House but they are thought to come from both within the County and from further afield. Mr Steynor's conviction and the fact that he lives on site has been widely publicised throughout Gloucestershire but the GSCB hopes that by sharing this information with all LSCBs, information concerning Mr Steynor's conviction will reach other youth groups considering using Dyke House.

Can you please use your LSCB networks to ensure youth groups are aware of the conviction and able to manage the risk.

Jane Bee
Local Authority Designated officer
Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Service
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