Future of social care inspection

Consultation questionnaire

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| --- |
| This consultation seeks your views on proposed changes across Ofsted’s inspections of children’s social care. It has four parts:   * principles for children’s social care inspections * a new approach to inspections of local authority children’s services from 2018 * a new common inspection framework for social care establishments, agencies, boarding schools and residential special schools from April 2017   changes to inspections of independent fostering agencies.  You should read this questionnaire alongside the full consultation document, which you can download from: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-social-care-inspection](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-social-care-inspection)  This consultation is open from 28 June to 9 September 2016. |

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Reference no: 160040

# How do I respond to the consultation?

There are three ways of completing and submitting your response.

### Online electronic questionnaire

Visit [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCInspection](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCInspection) to complete and submit an electronic version of the response form.

### Download and email

Visit [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-social-care-inspection](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-social-care-inspection) to download a Word version of this document and complete the questions on your computer. When you have completed the form, please email it to [socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk) with the consultation name in the subject line: the future of social care inspection.

### Print and post

Visit [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-social-care-inspection](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-social-care-inspection)to print a Word or PDF version of the response form that you can fill in by hand. When you have completed it, please post it to:

Social Care Policy Team

Ofsted

Aviation House

125 Kingsway

London

WC2B 6SE

**You can skip any questions where you do not have a view or do not want to answer.**

# ****Confidentiality****

The information you provide will be held by us. It will only be used for the purposes of consultation and research to help us to become more effective, shape policies and inform inspection and regulatory practice.

We will treat your identity with confidence, if you disclose this to us. However, we may publish an organisation’s views.

### ****Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?****

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Individual response |  |
| On behalf of an organisation, please specify | |

# About you

We’d like to know about your experience and the services/agencies you are most involved with.

### Which of the following services/agencies are you most involved with?

### Select one option that most closely fits your involvement.

**For example, as an employee, a parent or carer of a child or young person who lives at or is supported by one of these services, a foster carer, an adopter, an adult who is receiving services (such as adoption support) or a professional working with these services.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adoption support agency |  | Residential family centre |  |
| Boarding school |  | Residential holiday scheme for disabled children |  |
| Cafcass |  | Residential special school |  |
| Children’s home |  | Secure children’s home |  |
| Further education with residential provision |  | Secure training centre |  |
| Independent fostering agency |  | Voluntary adoption agency |  |
| Local authority children’s services |  | Youth offending team |  |
| Local safeguarding children board |  | Does not apply to me |  |
| Another agency / organisation (please tell us) | | | |

### ****I am a:****

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Local Authority | | Local Safeguarding Children Board | |
| Local authority chief executive |  | LSCB chair |  |
| Director of children’s services |  | LSCB business manager |  |
| Other senior manager in social care (specify if you wish) |  | Other LSCB member (specify if you wish) |  |
| Registered establishment or agency | | Parents / carers / foster carers | |
| Responsible individual |  | Parent / carer |  |
| Registered manager |  | Adopter or prospective adopter |  |
| Agency/branch manager |  | Adult receiving adoption support |  |
| Member of staff |  | Foster carer or prospective foster carer |  |
| Registered provider |  | Parent of a child who has a short break |  |
| Other worker in a registered establishment or agency (specify if you wish) |  | Other parent / carer group (specify if you wish) |  |
| Other respondent | | Schools and further education | |
| Civil servant |  | Head teacher |  |
| Commissioner of services for children/families |  | Teacher |  |
| Elected representative |  | School governor |  |
| Health professional |  | Principal of a further education college |  |
| Independent reviewing officer |  | Head of care |  |
| Lawyer |  | Member of care staff |  |
| Panel member |  | Member of a school trust |  |
| Representative of a provider or worker group/association |  | Other school or further education staff (specify if you wish) |  |
| Social worker |  |  |  |
| Social work manager |  |  |  |
| Volunteer |  |  |  |
| Other (specify if you wish) |  |  |  |

# Part one: the principles of social care inspection

We propose that social care inspections should be governed by three principles.

See paragraph four of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree with our proposed principles that inspection should:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inspection should: | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| focus on the things that matter most to children’s lives |  |  |  |
| be consistent in our expectations of providers |  |  |  |
| focus on services that are less than good. |  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### What other principles do you think we should have?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# Part two: inspection of local authority children’s services

## The overall approach to inspection of local authority children’s services

We propose that each inspection should take account of the earlier performance of each local authority:

* **Inadequate**: quarterly monitoring visits followed by a re-inspection under the single inspection framework. When they cease to be inadequate, they will join one of the programmes below.
* **Require improvement to be good**: re-inspect within three years. This full judgement inspection will establish whether the local authority is good.

**Good or outstanding**: also re-inspect within three years, but a shorter judgement inspection to determine whether they have improved or maintained their performance and test their self-evaluation of front-line social work.

If significant concerns arise during a short judgement inspection, we will return, in no more than eight weeks, to complete a full judgement inspection.

See paragraphs 10 to 20 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Should local authority inspections be proportionate, taking account of earlier inspection outcomes and other intelligence/data?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Yes, inspections should be proportionate | No, all local authorities should receive the same inspection | Don’t Know |
|  |  |  |

### If inspections were proportionate, do you agree that:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| there should be a longer judgement inspection in local authorities that require improvement to be good |  |  |  |
| there should be a shorter judgement inspection in good and outstanding local authorities |  |  |  |
| where Ofsted identifies concerns on a short judgement inspection, we should return within eight weeks to undertake a full judgement inspection. |  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about proportionate inspections.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

We propose to carry out short modular inspections that will look at a specific part of the child’s journey to check that the quality of services has been maintained and to support an authority’s improvement journey up to their next full judgement inspection

See paragraphs 21 to 22 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree that Ofsted should carry out short modular inspections**:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| in local authorities that require improvement, to monitor their progress and support them on their journey to becoming good |  |  |  |
| where we have concerns about practice in any local authority, to test whether performance may have deteriorated |  |  |  |
| in a sample of good or outstanding local authorities, to identify and share good practice |  |  |  |

### ****Should we have modular inspections on each of these areas in the new programme:****

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| child in need of help and protection |  |  |  |
| achieving permanence for children looked after |  |  |  |
| care leavers |  |  |  |

### What other/different modules should we have and why?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Module | Reason |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about modular inspections.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## The judgements we will make

To provide clear messages, we will use our standard four-point judgement scale (outstanding, good, requires improvement to be good and inadequate) in the full and short judgement inspections. We will make a graded judgement on overall effectiveness and provide a narrative that explains the reasons for this judgement.

Modular inspections will not include graded judgements. We will provide narrative findings on key strengths, areas for development and areas of priority action.

See paragraphs 23–25 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Should we also provide a graded judgement on the judgement inspections for the following parts of the service**:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| children in need of help and protection |  |  |  |
| achieving permanence for children looked after |  |  |  |
| care leavers |  |  |  |
| leadership and management |  |  |  |
| Other judgement areas: |  | | |

### Do you agree that, for modular inspections, we should report our findings through a narrative without graded judgements?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the judgements we will make?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Local authority self-evaluation of practice

We think that the local authority’s self-evaluation of the quality of front-line social work practice could play an important role in the new inspections. The design of any model should be led by the sector. It should support improvement of the local authority, not be produced solely for the purpose of inspection.

See paragraphs 26 to 30 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Should we ask that local authorities provide their annual self-evaluation of social work practice? If you agree, when should they provide it?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ofsted should not ask for the self-evaluation | January – the start of the calendar year | April – the start of the financial year | July – before inspections halt over the summer holiday period | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |  |  |

### Should we ask local authorities to provide an update to their self-evaluation at the point of inspection?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree | Don’t Know |
|  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about local authorities providing us with their self-evaluation of front-line social work practice?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## The new judgement inspection

We propose to introduce new full and short judgement inspections that we will carry out in all local authority areas. Inspectors will look at the same local authority practice and services at each inspection.

The inspection will be proportionate by adjusting aspects of the methodology – for example, the number of cases tracked and sampled, not the range of services that inspectors will evaluate or the frequency of the judgement inspection. We intend to continue with our focus on direct practice with children and families, working alongside practitioners.

See paragraphs 31 to 35 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Should the judgement inspection look at the experiences of a sample of:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| Children at the point of referral and assessment, which will enable inspectors to scrutinise the effectiveness of early help |  |  |  |
| Children in need of protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation |  |  |  |
| Children looked after and the effectiveness of arrangements to achieve permanence |  |  |  |
| Children returning home, children ‘stepped-down’ to early help and care leavers |  |  |  |
| Others – please specify | | | |

Announcing inspections can increase the overall burden of inspection on local authorities and Ofsted. Also, children and young people have told us they have greater confidence in unannounced inspection findings.

However, unannounced inspections can make it challenging for local authorities to provide information that is essential the inspection. Children and young people are sometimes reluctant to speak with inspectors if they receive too little notice.

See paragraphs 36 to 37 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you think our inspections of local authority children’s services should be unannounced or have a short notice period?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inspection type | Unannounced | Short notice | Don’t know |
| Full judgement inspection |  |  |  |
| Short judgement inspection |  |  |  |
| Modular inspection |  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the new judgement inspection?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Sector engagement in inspection

We think that these new shorter inspections will make the opportunities for secondment more accessible to local authority leaders.

### Do you agree that the new approach provides more accessible opportunities for prospective secondees from local authorities to work with us on inspections?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inspection type | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| Full judgement inspection |  |  |  |
| Short judgement inspection |  |  |  |
| Modular inspection |  |  |  |
| Monitoring visits |  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about secondment opportunities for local authority leaders?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# Part three: a common inspection framework for social care settings

We propose to implement a social care common inspection framework. This will mean that:

* we will apply the same judgement structure across a wide range of settings
* we will report on a set of overall criteria at every inspection
* wherever possible, the specific evaluation criteria will be similar across settings
* we bring shared guidance across our inspection of settings into one coherent document

our inspection methodology will be based on the common principle of focusing on the experiences and progress of children, while addressing the unique and distinct aspects of each type of setting.

See paragraphs 44 to 55 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree that Ofsted should introduce a new social care common inspection framework from April 2017?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answer about introducing a common inspection framework?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Making judgements under the common inspection framework

The common inspection framework will mean that the same judgements are made across the different settings and agencies. Inspectors will make judgements on:

* overall experiences and progress of children, taking into account:
* how well children are helped and protected

the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

See paragraphs 57 to 64 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree that we should apply this judgement structure to all inspections under the common inspection framework?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |

### If you disagree, what judgement structure do you think we should apply?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the judgement structure:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## Overall experiences and progress of children and young people

The ‘overall experiences and progress’ judgement takes account of findings from the judgement on help and protection and the judgement on the effectiveness of leaders and managers. It also includes:

* the quality of individualised care and support provided and the influence and impact of the provider on the progress and experiences of children
* the quality of relationships between professionals, carers and children
* the progress children make in relation to their health, education, and emotional, social and psychological well-being
* how well children’s views are understood and taken into account and how their rights and entitlements are met
* the quality of children’s experiences on a day-to-day basis
* how well children and young people are prepared for their futures and how well transitions are managed

how the particular needs of children and young people who live a long way from home are met.

See paragraphs 65 to 68 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree with the key areas that inspectors will evaluate in making the proposed ‘overall experiences and progress of children and young people’ judgement?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Completely agree | Mostly agree | Somewhat agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |  |  |

### Are there any key areas missing that you think we should include?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the key areas for the ‘overall experiences and progress of children and young people’:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## How well children and young people are helped and protected

This judgement takes account of:

* how well risks are identified, understood and managed and whether the support and care provided help children and young people to become increasingly safe
* the response to children that may go missing or may be at risk of harm, including exploitation, neglect, abuse, self-harm, bullying and radicalisation
* how well staff manage situations and behaviour and whether clear and consistent boundaries contribute to a feeling of well-being and security for children and young people

whether safeguarding arrangements to protect children meet all statutory and other government requirements, promote their welfare and prevent radicalisation and extremism.

See paragraphs 69 to 70 of the full consultation document for more information.

**Do you agree with the key areas that inspectors will evaluate in making the proposed ‘how well children and young people are helped and protected’ judgement?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Completely agree | Mostly agree | Somewhat agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |  |  |

### Are there any key areas missing that you think we should include?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the key areas for ‘how well children and young people are helped and protected’:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## The effectiveness of leaders and managers

This judgement takes account of:

* whether leaders and managers show an ambitious vision, have high expectations for what all children can achieve and ensure high standards of care
* how well leaders and managers prioritise the needs of children and young people
* the extent to which children and young people continually make progress from their starting points across all aspects of their development, as leaders and managers have a clear understanding of the progress children and young people are making in respect of the plan for them
* whether leaders and managers provide the right supportive environment for staff through effective supervision and appraisal and high-quality induction and training programmes, tailored to the specific needs of the children and young people
* how well leaders and managers know and understand the setting’s strengths and weaknesses, prevent shortfalls, identify weaknesses and take decisive and effective action
* whether the establishment or agency is achieving its stated aims and objectives
* the quality of professional relationships to ensure the best possible all-round support to children and young people in all areas of their development
* whether leaders and managers actively challenge when the responses from other services are not effective

the extent to which leaders and managers actively promote equality and diversity, and tackle bullying and discrimination.

See paragraphs 71 to 72 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree with the key areas that inspectors will evaluate in making the proposed ‘effectiveness of leaders and managers’ judgement?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Completely agree | Mostly agree | Somewhat agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |  |  |

### Are there any key areas missing that you think we should include?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the key areas for the ‘effectiveness of leaders and managers’

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# Part four: inspections of independent fostering agencies

We propose that, while we will continue to inspect all independent fostering agencies (IFAs) at least once within a three-year period, we will usually return sooner to those that are judged inadequate or to require improvement.

See paragraphs 73 to 78 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree that Ofsted should usually return to inspect IFAs that are judged as inadequate within six to 12 months?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |

### Do you agree that Ofsted should usually return to inspect IFAs that are judged as requiring improvement within 12 to 18 months?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |

Currently, IFA inspections are carried out with 10 working days’ notice. We propose that this is reduced to one working day. This will bring notice periods more in line with the majority of our inspections

See paragraphs 79 to 81 of the full consultation document for more information.

### Do you agree that the notice period for the inspection of independent fostering agencies should be reduced from 10 working days to one working day?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
|  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the arrangements for IFA inspections.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# What the SCCIF will mean

Parts three and four of this consultation set out proposals that relate to our proposed common inspection framework.

Annexes one to nine of the consultation document outline what this will mean for each type of establishment and agency.

### Do you think that the following settings should be part of the SCCIF?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| Children’s homes |  |  |  |
| Secure children’s homes |  |  |  |
| Independent fostering agencies |  |  |  |
| Voluntary adoption agencies |  |  |  |
| Adoption support agencies |  |  |  |
| Residential family centres |  |  |  |
| Residential holiday schemes for disabled children |  |  |  |
| Boarding schools and residential special schools |  |  |  |
| Residential provision in further education colleges |  |  |  |

### Please tell us the reasons for your answers about which settings should be part of the SCCIF

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# What did you think of this consultation?

One of the commitments in our strategic plan is to monitor whether our consultations are accessible to those wishing to take part.

Please tell us what you thought of this consultation by answering the questions below.

How did you hear about this consultation?

* Ofsted website
* *Ofsted News*, Ofsted’s monthly newsletter
* Ofsted conference
* Twitter (@ofstednews)
* Another organisation (please specify, if known)
* Other (please specify)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Don’t know |
| I found the consultation information clear and easy to understand. |  |  |  |  |
| I found the consultation easy to find on the Ofsted website. |  |  |  |  |
| I had enough information about the consultation topic. |  |  |  |  |
| I would take part in a future Ofsted consultation. |  |  |  |  |

Is there anything you would like us to improve or do differently for future consultations? If so, please tell us below.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

# Additional questions about you

Your answers to the following questions will help us to evaluate how successfully we are communicating messages from inspection to all sections of society. We would like to assure you that completion of this section is optional; you do not have to answer any of the questions. All responses are confidential.

Please tick the appropriate box.

### 1. Gender

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Female | Male |

### 2. Age

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Under 14 | 14–18 | 19–24 | 25–34 | 35–44 | 45–54 | 55–64 | 65+ |

### 3. Ethnic origin

(a) How would you describe your national group?

British or mixed British

English

Irish

Northern Irish

Scottish

Welsh

Other (specify if you wish)

(b) How would you describe your ethnic group?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Asian |  | Mixed ethnic origin |  |
| Bangladeshi |  | Asian and White |  |
| Indian |  | Black African and White |  |
| Pakistani |  | Black Caribbean and White |  |
| Any other Asian background  (specify if you wish) |  | Any other mixed ethnic background  (specify if you wish) |  |
| Black |  | White |  |
| African |  | Any White background (specify if you wish) |  |
| Caribbean |  | Any other ethnic background |  |
| Any other Black background (specify if you wish) |  | Any other background (specify if you wish) |  |
| Chinese |  |  |  |
| Any Chinese background  (specify if you wish) |  |  |  |

### 4. Sexual orientation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Heterosexual | Lesbian | Gay | Bisexual |

### 5. Religion/belief

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Buddhist |  | Muslim |  |
| Christian |  | Sikh |  |
| Hindu |  | Any other, please state: |  |
| Jewish |  | None |  |

### 6. Disability

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Do you consider yourself to have a disability? | Yes | No |

### Thank you for taking part in our consultation.

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