

# Good independent fostering provision

Consultation document

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This is a consultation document on proposals for revisions to the inspection of independent fostering agencies. Ofsted seeks the widest possible range of views from those who have an interest in, or expertise relating to, fostering provision in order to ensure that the changes proposed take proper account of the needs and circumstances of all interested parties.

The closing date for the consultation is **12 July 2013**.

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**361**

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## About Ofsted

1. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages.

## Purpose and background to the consultation

2. This consultation seeks your views on proposals to make revisions to the framework for the inspection of independent fostering agencies. Your views will help to refine and develop the framework.
3. Ofsted registers and inspects independent fostering agencies. Where appropriate, it takes enforcement action in cases where regulations are not met. Independent fostering agencies recruit, assess, approve, train, support and supervise foster carers. Their services are used by local authorities who place looked after children and young people for whom they are responsible with foster carers approved by the agency.
4. Children and young people who are looked after are often vulnerable and face considerable disadvantages. They deserve to be protected and cared for by people and services whose practice is judged to be 'good' or 'outstanding'. Independent fostering agencies that are judged not to be 'good' will 'require improvement'. This is to promote the need for all independent fostering agencies to provide a good or better service – one that performs over and above the minimum expectations and ensures that children and young people looked after do well.
5. Compliance with regulations and the national minimum standards is not enough to improve children's life chances. Fostering agencies should demonstrate that they are meeting the standards in such a way that they have a positive impact on the experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people.
6. The judgement of 'requires improvement' relates to improvement in order to be 'good', not in order to comply with the regulations or national minimum standards. A judgement of 'requires improvement' will not result in any enforcement action by Ofsted. We will make recommendations and requirements to support services to improve in order to be 'good' or 'outstanding'. We will continue to take enforcement action as necessary in services judged 'inadequate' and in these circumstances we will require services to make improvements in order to comply with regulations.

7. The national minimum standards underpin the inspection and providers should continue to observe these standards. The way in which the standards are implemented and the impact this has on the experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people will provide evidence for all the judgements. If the impact is positive for children and young people this is likely to lead to a judgement of 'good'. If the impact is poor and the service 'requires improvement' the recommendations we make will continue to be linked to the standards.
8. We are seeking views and comments to help us to describe 'good' and to base that on the knowledge and experience of all those with an interest in fostering. We are not consulting on our decision to replace 'adequate' with a 'requires improvement' judgement. We are convinced it is right to emphasise that each child should receive a service from good or better independent fostering agencies and any that are not yet 'good' will by definition 'require improvement'. They should be taking immediate and decisive action to improve.
9. We understand that currently local authorities generally commission services from independent fostering agencies judged to be either 'good' or 'outstanding'. Services judged to be 'adequate' are used on occasion so children do not have to move from existing families. We do not expect the introduction of a judgement of 'requires improvement' to lead to any changes in local authority commissioning practices.
10. In April 2012 a new framework for the inspection of local authority fostering services and independent fostering agencies was introduced following wide consultation. From September 2013 we propose to introduce a new inspection in local authorities that takes into account the range of children's services including adoption and fostering. This means that this proposed revised framework will apply only to independent fostering agencies. We intend that the judgements continue to align with our local authority inspections; therefore we are consulting on and plan to introduce the frameworks during the same inspection period.
11. The judgements proposed in this framework have not significantly changed from the framework in use at the present time and which has been the subject of wide consultation referred to in paragraph 10 above. The responses, particularly those from children and young people, have informed our description of a 'good' agency. We have also taken into account responses to other consultations, including the consultation on the proposed inspection of services for children and young people looked after and care leavers, and publications from the Director of Children's Rights which have helped us to understand what matters to children and young people who are looked after.

12. The consultation sets out the characteristics of a 'good' service in each judgement area. Inspectors will use these criteria to evaluate the experiences of children, young people and families and the services they receive. Inspectors will make a judgement of 'good' where there is evidence that the characteristics of 'good' are in place, reflect current practice and are demonstrably leading to improved outcomes for children and young people. Inspectors will deploy their professional judgement to determine the weight and significance of their findings. When considering the effectiveness and impact of the fostering agency, inspectors will use the descriptors of 'good' as the benchmark from which to grade performance.
13. Inspectors will make their judgements on a four-point scale:
  - outstanding
  - good
  - requires improvement<sup>1</sup>
  - inadequate.
14. There is now a separate judgement for the experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people who receive short break foster care.
15. We propose that a judgement of 'inadequate' in any area should lead to a judgement of 'inadequate' overall.
16. We will use the information from consultation to finalise the revised arrangements for inspection. In September 2013 we will publish the main findings from the consultation on our website.

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<sup>1</sup> The 'requires improvement' judgement is made in relation to improvement to become 'good'.

## Changes to the inspection of independent fostering agencies

17. From September 2013, the framework will include:
- a single judgement of 'requires improvement' which will replace the current 'adequate' judgement for all independent fostering agencies
  - one set of grade descriptors to describe 'good' in each judgement area:
    - the experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people<sup>2</sup>
    - the quality of the service
    - safeguarding
    - leadership and management
  - grade descriptors for 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' that are derived from 'good' as the benchmark
  - an 'overall effectiveness' judgement that will be made based on the evaluation of performance in all judgement areas. A judgement of 'inadequate' in any of the four judgement areas will mean that overall effectiveness will also be judged 'inadequate'.
18. We are seeking your views on three changes.
- The grade descriptors for the judgement of 'good'. We want to know if, in your opinion, they describe good experiences, care and progress for children and young people. The grade descriptors for 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' are also set out below.
  - The description of a judgement of 'requires improvement'. This category could include an agency that is meeting the standards as set out in the regulations and national minimum standards. We want to know your opinion on the implications and benefits of the new judgement of 'requires improvement'.
  - The judgement of 'inadequate'. We propose that inadequacy in any of the four judgement areas limits the overall effectiveness judgement to 'inadequate'. We want to know whether you agree with this proposal.
19. You can read about the consultation process on page 21. The consultation questions that we would like you to answer start on page 22.

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<sup>2</sup> There is a separate set of criteria to describe 'good' for children who are not looked after and attend foster care for short breaks.

## Proposal (I): The definition of 'good'

### Questions 1 to 6 of the consultation

20. Depending on the type of independent fostering agency, only one set of criteria will apply for the experiences, progress and outcomes judgement. Those agencies offering short breaks for children and young people will be inspected against the criteria in paragraph 24 for this judgement and all other agencies by the criteria at paragraph 22. There is one set of criteria for children and young people who are looked after (Judgement 1) and one set for children and young people who attend foster care for short breaks (Judgement 1A).
21. **Judgement 1: The experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people – this judgement is likely to be 'good' where the criteria below best describe the experiences of children and young people.**
22. Children and young people:
- are provided with easily accessible and helpful information about their foster carers before placement. This helps them settle into their foster home and understand how their foster carers will look after them
  - live with foster carers who meet their needs, are safe and feel comfortable. They develop secure primary attachments with the adults caring for them. They move only when it is their best interests and remain with their foster carers for as long as they need the care and support that is provided. This includes remaining under Special Guardianship Orders or through an adoption arrangement
  - have a wide range of opportunities, support and help to enable them to mature successfully to adulthood and to develop a positive identity. They have access to records about their life history which are provided when they are needed
  - have the opportunity to express their wishes, feelings and views. They influence their day-to-day care and the plans for their future. They understand how to complain and feel able to do so. They can easily access an advocate, the independent reviewing officer and independent visitor who can provide the advice and support they need, and pursue matters on their behalf, if necessary. They also know what to do or who to speak to if they are bullied or face other forms of discrimination
  - take, or are learning to take, responsibility for their behaviour and are not offending, misusing drugs or alcohol, going missing or being sexually exploited; or, if any such risks are identified, action is taken to reduce the risk and protect the child or young person

- lead a healthy life, receive advice on healthy living and, when it is needed, are offered effective emotional, physical, psychological and therapeutic help. Services for disabled children and young people are provided when they are needed for as long as these are required
  - attend school or other educational provision that provides for their statutory entitlement of 25 hours per week. The quality of that experience is good. They make progress in their learning and development. Young people who do not attend school are in further education, training or employment
  - are included in the foster carer's family life. They see their own family and friends; have overnight stays, as appropriate; and access a broad range of social, educational and recreational opportunities
  - benefit from consistent, clear and positive relationships between their parents and foster carers.
23. If the agency is not judged as 'good' it will be judged either as 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'. The grade descriptors for 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' are set out below.

### **Outstanding:**

- The experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people who are looked after is likely to be judged 'outstanding' if it is evident that children and young people are making exceptional progress in their social, emotional and educational development. In addition, the characteristics of a 'good' judgement must be met.

### **Requires improvement:**

- The agency is not yet demonstrating the characteristics of a 'good' judgement. However, there are no widespread or serious failures that result in children and young people not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted. Regulatory requirements are met or, if they are not, any breaches do not have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

### **Inadequate:**

- There are widespread or serious failures that result in children and young people not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted. There are breaches of regulations which have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

24. **Judgement 1A: The experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people who receive short break foster care – this judgement is likely to be 'good' where the criteria below best describe the experiences of children and young people.**
25. Children and young people:
- are placed with short break carers who understand and can meet their assessed needs and help them to make progress, they feel comfortable and safe, and are happy and secure with their short break family. They do not change carers unless it is in their best interests
  - have the opportunity to express their wishes, feelings and views. They influence their day-to-day care and the plans for their futures. They know what to do or who to speak to if they are bullied or face other forms of discrimination. They understand how to complain and have easy access to an advocate and independent visitor who can provide the advice and support they need and pursue matters on their behalf if necessary
  - are supported to take risks that promote their social, emotional and psychological development. They are safe in doing so. They are not offending, misusing drugs or alcohol, going missing or being sexually exploited or, if any such risks are identified, action is taken to reduce the risk and protect the child or young person
  - benefit from consistent, clear and positive relationships between their parents and foster carers, enjoy good relationships with their peers and access a wide range of stimulating opportunities to promote their development that may not otherwise be available to them
  - have their assessed needs met, including the provision of specialist equipment if they are disabled.
26. If the agency is not judged as 'good' it will be judged either as 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'. The grade descriptors for 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' are set out below.

### **Outstanding:**

- The experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people who receive short breaks are likely to be judged 'outstanding' if it is evident that children and young people are making exceptional progress in their emotional, social and educational development. In addition, the characteristics of a 'good' judgement must be met.

**Requires improvement:**

- The agency is not yet demonstrating the characteristics of a 'good' judgement. However, there are no widespread or serious failures that result in children and young people not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted. Regulatory requirements are met or, if they are not, any breaches do not have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

**Inadequate:**

- There are widespread or serious failures that result in children and young people not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted. There are breaches of regulations which have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

27. **Judgement 2: The quality of service is likely to be 'good' if the following characteristics best describe the service provided:**

- The fostering agency recruits a wide range of foster carers who can meet the diverse needs of children and young people who are looked after or children and young people receiving a short break service.
- The preparation, assessment, support and training of foster carers focuses on the needs of children and young people and helps to ensure that their needs are met by carers who have an in-depth understanding of children living away from their families. Foster carers understand the role and responsibilities of both the local authority and the fostering agency.
- Foster carers understand and demonstrate that they can help children and young people who are fostered to feel a part of their family. They are able to form and maintain contact and positive working relationships with parents and other significant adults for the child or young person. Foster carers are provided with 'respite' only when it is in the child's or young person's best interests and any respite care provided takes full account of the child's or young person's needs.
- Foster carers receive effective training and supervision in respect of the specific and complex needs of children. Foster carers achieve the Training, Support and Development Standards in foster care within one year of approval and placements are more effective and stable as a result.<sup>3</sup>
- Foster carers benefit from professional relationships with the agency and placing social workers so that placements are effective, planned and meet the needs of children. They are actively involved in planning for the child or young person, and their views are valued by the fostering agency and positively influence children's and young people's progress. Foster carers are well supported to ensure that plans for children and young people remain in their best interests.
- The fostering panel promotes safe, secure and stable placements through active engagement with the fostering agency. It carries out a rigorous quality assurance function and promotes thorough assessments, support and training for foster carers. The panel members are recruited from a range of diverse backgrounds.
- Matching and placement decisions are informed by a clear understanding of children and young people's needs and of the skills and experience of foster carers. Full information is always shared with foster carers prior to a placement so that appropriate care can be provided. This careful matching contributes to the stability of placements and the retention of foster carers.

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<sup>3</sup> *Fostering services: national minimum standards*, standard 20, Department for Education, 2011; <http://education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/fostercare/a0071234/regs>.

- The fostering agency works with the placing local authority and Independent Reviewing Officers to ensure that the care plan and placement plan are reviewed at least within statutory intervals and whenever the child or young person's needs indicate that this would be beneficial.
28. If the agency is not judged as 'good' it will be judged either as 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'. The grade descriptors for 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' are set out below.

### **Outstanding:**

- The quality of service provision is likely to be judged 'outstanding' if, in addition to meeting the characteristics of a 'good' judgement, there is evidence that professional practice exceeds the standard of 'good' and results in sustained improvement to the lives of children and young people. Research informs practice, some of which will be innovative, and makes an exceptional difference to the recruitment, assessment, support, training and retention of foster carers.

### **Requires improvement:**

- The quality of service provision is likely to 'require improvement' when the characteristics of 'good' are not in place. However, there are no widespread or serious failures that result in children's and young people's welfare not being safeguarded and promoted, or in a significant loss of foster carers. Regulatory requirements are met or, if they are not, any breaches do not have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

### **Inadequate:**

- The quality of service provision is likely to be 'inadequate' if there are widespread or serious failures that result in children's and young people's welfare not being safeguarded and promoted. There are breaches of regulations which have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

29. **Judgement 3: Safeguarding children and young people is likely to be 'good' if the following criteria best describe the agency's safeguarding practice:**

- Children are enabled to take age-appropriate risks and develop an understanding of how to protect themselves. They know how to complain, and feel able to do so. They know who they can talk to about any concerns they have. They feel confident that they will be supported and listened to and that their concerns will be addressed.
- Placement plans and risk assessments that are established with foster carers for each child and young person placed identify the impact of any abuse or neglect and actions required to protect and support the children and young people concerned. The plan is carefully monitored, reviewed and evaluated by the agency to ensure that children and young people are very effectively protected and supported.
- The incidence of children or young people going missing and/or being at risk of sexual exploitation is rigorously monitored. Adults take action to protect children and to review plans for them where they continue to be at risk. Agency social workers are fully engaged and monitor progress carefully. Foster carers have a good understanding of what may cause children or young people to go missing and take action to minimise all associated risks. Children and young people are able to explain what is happening to their care and they understand the plan to protect them.
- Foster carers are sensitive to, and fully aware of, potential and actual abuse in children's lives. They have an open attitude to disclosures and are able to demonstrate that they have thought through how they would deal with safeguarding and the need to protect foster children. They recognise the impact of any abuse or neglect on the behaviour of children and young people they care for and take appropriate action to protect and support them.
- Strong and effective relationships with the local authority, the police, health services, schools and other agencies protect those children who engage in risk-taking behaviour.
- Recruitment, assessment, preparation, supervision and training of foster carers have a very strong focus on safeguarding and child protection. The agency operates a safe fostering service with safe families. It promotes safe care, makes annual unannounced visits to foster carers and ensures that children and young people are seen without their foster carers.

- All staff and panel member recruitment and vetting is thorough and complies with statutory requirements. As much as possible is done to assure the suitability of people working in the agency, including staff who do not work directly with children and where Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are unavailable.<sup>4</sup> Working practices and panel procedures also help to prevent unsuitable people from having the opportunity to harm children and young people.
  - An open culture within the agency supports whistleblowing. Staff notice any inappropriate behaviour and take action to prevent adults from harming children and young people.
  - Allegations against or suspicion of harm by foster carers are referred immediately to local authority child protection services and handled appropriately by the agency. The agency also protects and supports the children, young people and carers involved, and helps to ensure that decisions are focused on children's needs. Unnecessary placement moves are challenged.
  - Safeguarding and child protection practice are reviewed regularly, clearly evaluated and inform agency developments.
30. If the agency is not judged as 'good' it will be judged either as 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'. The grade descriptors for 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' are set out below.

### **Outstanding:**

- Safeguarding is likely to be judged 'outstanding' if, in addition to meeting the characteristics of a 'good' judgement, the agency's safeguarding practice, including its work with foster carers, is informed by research and developments in the area of safeguarding and child protection. This results in foster carers who demonstrate a comprehensive and impressive understanding of safeguarding and of the impact of abuse on children, young people and adults. They, therefore, effectively support children and young people even in the most difficult and demanding circumstances. It is evident that children and young people are making significantly better progress and achieving more than was predicted in all areas of their development.

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<sup>4</sup> The DBS was established under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and carries out the functions previously undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

**Requires improvement:**

- Safeguarding children and young people is likely to 'require improvement' when the characteristics of 'good' are not in place. However, there are no widespread or serious failures that result in children and young people's welfare not being safeguarded. Regulatory requirements are met or, if they are not, any breaches do not have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

**Inadequate:**

- Safeguarding is likely to be 'inadequate' if there are widespread or serious failures that result in children's and young people's welfare not being safeguarded and promoted. There are breaches of regulations which have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

31. **Judgement 4: Leadership and management are likely to be 'good' if the following characteristics best describe agency practice:**

- Leaders and managers develop highly effective working relationships with placing local authorities and social workers in particular. This improves the care of, progress and outcomes for children and young people who are fostered.
- Leaders and managers ensure that children and young people influence plans for their futures. They regularly monitor and track the progress of individual children and young people to assess the quality of the service and the experiences of children and young people. Action is taken if progress is not being made or if children are unhappy or unsafe.
- Leaders and managers monitor the quality of the service provided and conduct a thorough review of the fostering agency annually. The views of children and young people, their parents, foster carers and other stakeholders inform the review. The results of the review drive continuous improvement in outcomes for children and young people and service provision. Annual quality and performance data forms are promptly completed and submitted to Ofsted.
- The statement of purpose and children's guide are clear, easily understood and comprehensive. This results in children and young people, parents and relatives, foster carers and staff being clear about the aims and objectives of the fostering agency. The agency has adopted the Foster Care Charter in consultation with foster carers and is meeting those commitments, which improves retention. Complaints and concerns are welcomed and inform improvements in the care provided to children and young people.
- Managers review and act on the trends and patterns in the recruitment of foster carers. They take action to recruit a sufficient number of foster carers to fulfil their commitments to local authorities. They regularly review their placement processes and take any necessary action to improve the stability of placements and the progress children make.
- Staff, managers and panel members are appropriately qualified, experienced and supervised. The agency is well staffed, resourced and financially viable. Staff receive regular and relevant training that enables them to supervise and support foster carers. Staff appraisals are effective. They include the views of children, young people and foster carers. There is evidence of action being taken where feedback indicates this is needed.
- All notifiable events under schedule 7 of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 are completed and the registered manager is able to demonstrate evidence that appropriate follow-up action is taken.
- Effective action has been taken in relation to any requirements and recommendations made at the previous inspection.

32. If the agency is not judged as 'good' it will be judged either as 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'. The grade descriptors for 'outstanding', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate' are set out below.

**Outstanding:**

- Leadership and management are likely to be judged 'outstanding' if, in addition to meeting the requirements of a 'good' judgement, there is evidence that leaders and managers are inspirational, confident, ambitious, innovative and influential in changing the lives of children and young people placed with the agency. Professional relationships between the agency and the local authority and other partner organisations are highly effective. The agency can demonstrate that it makes an exceptional difference to the lives and experiences of children and young people.

**Requires improvement:**

- Leadership and management are likely to 'require improvement' when the characteristics of 'good' are not in place. However, there are no widespread or serious failures that result in children and young people's welfare not being safeguarded and promoted. Regulatory requirements are met or, if they are not, any breaches do not have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people.

**Inadequate:**

- Leadership and management are likely to be 'inadequate' if there are widespread or serious failures that result in children and young people's welfare not being safeguarded and promoted. There are breaches of regulations which have a negative impact on the welfare of children and young people. Where there is no registered manager this is likely to lead to a judgement of 'inadequate'.

## **Proposal (II) The definition of 'requires improvement'**

### **Question 7 of the consultation**

33. It is proposed that any agency that is not demonstrating the characteristics of a good or better service will be judged to 'require improvement'. However, if there are breaches of regulations or widespread or serious failures, either of which result in children's or young people's welfare not being safeguarded or promoted, the agency will be judged 'inadequate'.

## **Proposal (III): 'Inadequate' judgements**

### **Question 8 of the consultation**

34. It is proposed that inadequacy in any of the four judgement areas limits the overall effectiveness judgement to 'inadequate'. The judgements are:

- the experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people

or

- the experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, disabled children who have short breaks (to be used in agencies that only provide short break foster care)
- the quality of the service
- safeguarding
- leadership and management.

## **The consultation process**

We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation opens on 14 June 2013 and closes on 12 July 2013.

The information you provide us with will inform our consideration of changes to the framework for the inspection of independent fostering agencies.

We will publish a response to the consultation at the same time that we intend to implement the new inspections in September 2013.

## **Sending back your response**

There are three ways of completing and submitting your response.

### **Online electronic questionnaire**

Visit our website to complete and submit an electronic version of the questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ofsted-indfost2013>.

### **Print and post**

Visit our website to print a Word or PDF version of the response form that can be filled in by hand: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/130166](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/130166). When you have completed it please post it to:

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WC2B 6SE.

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## Response form for 'Good independent fostering provision' consultation

### 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 in confidence, if you disclose it to us. However, we may publish an organisation's views.

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes  please complete Section 1 and then go to Section 3

No  please complete Section 2 and then go to Section 3

### Section 1

If you are completing the consultation on behalf of an organisation and would like us to consider publishing the views of your organisation, please indicate this below.

Organisation:

### Section 2

Which of the below best describes you? Please tick one option.

I am:

a child or young person who is or was fostered	<input type="checkbox"/>	an independent provider of a fostering service	<input type="checkbox"/>
a parent of a child or young person who is or was fostered	<input type="checkbox"/>	a local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
a relative of a child or young person who is or was fostered	<input type="checkbox"/>	an employee of a fostering service	<input type="checkbox"/>
a foster carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	a social worker or manager working with children and young people who are fostered	<input type="checkbox"/>
a member of a foster carer's family	<input type="checkbox"/>	a member of a fostering panel	<input type="checkbox"/>
a representative member of a national or regional fostering organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
other (please tell us)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Section 3

Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the grade descriptors in paragraph 21 describe good **experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people who are looked after** by a fostering agency?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Question 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the grade descriptors in paragraph 24 describe good **experiences and progress of, and outcomes for, children and young people who receive short break care** with a fostering agency?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Question 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the grade descriptors in paragraph 27 describe a good **quality of service** in a fostering agency?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Question 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the grade descriptors in paragraph 29 describe good practice in **safeguarding children and young people** in a fostering agency?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the grade descriptors in paragraph 31 describe good **leadership and management** in a fostering agency?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Question 6: Do you have any further comments or suggestions about our proposals for the grade descriptors described in questions 1 to 5?

Comments:

Question 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the description of a judgement of 'requires improvement' as described in paragraph 33?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Question 8: To what extent do you agree or disagree that a judgement of 'inadequate' in any judgement area listed in paragraph 34 should limit the overall effectiveness judgement to 'inadequate'?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Question 9: Do you have any further comments? Please include them here.  
Any views concerning the impact of these proposals on the commissioning of independent fostering agency services would also be welcomed.

## 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.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree or disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
I found the consultation information clear and easy to understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I found the consultation easy to find on the Ofsted website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I had enough information about the consultation topic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would take part in a future Ofsted consultation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## How did you hear about this consultation?

- Ofsted website
- Ofsted News*
- Ofsted email alerts service
- Ofsted conference
- Another organisation (please specify, if known)
- Other (please specify)

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

Thank you for taking part in our consultation.

## 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 all responses are confidential and you do not have to answer every question.**

Please tick the appropriate box.

### 1. Gender

Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>
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### 2. Age

Under 14 <input type="checkbox"/>	14–18 <input type="checkbox"/>	19–24 <input type="checkbox"/>	25–34 <input type="checkbox"/>	35–44 <input type="checkbox"/>	45–54 <input type="checkbox"/>	55–64 <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>
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### 3. Ethnic origin

a) How would you describe your national group?

British or mixed British	<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

b) How would you describe your ethnic group?

Asian		Mixed ethnic origin	
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black African and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Caribbean and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Asian background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other mixed ethnic background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Black</b>		<b>White</b>	
African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any White background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Any other ethnic background</b>	
Any other Black background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Chinese</b>			
Any Chinese background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

#### 4. Sexual orientation

Heterosexual <input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian <input type="checkbox"/>	Gay <input type="checkbox"/>	Bisexual <input type="checkbox"/>
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#### 5. Religion/Belief

Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other, please state:	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 6. Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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