

Inspection framework for residential holiday schemes for disabled children

Responses to the consultation

This is a report on the outcomes of the consultation about the arrangements for the inspection of residential holiday schemes for disabled children.

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Introduction

1. Ofsted recently consulted on four key proposals about the inspection of residential holiday schemes for disabled children.
2. Prior to the formal consultation, we held an event where representatives from the sector shared their views on what should constitute a 'good' residential holiday scheme for disabled children. This meeting informed the draft framework for the inspection of such holiday schemes, which was subject to consultation.
3. The consultation opened on 27 May 2014 and closed on 24 June 2014.
4. We received 27 written responses and spoke to three sector groups. We are grateful to all individuals and organisations who took the time to respond to the consultation.

The proposals in the consultation

5. We sought views on four specific proposals.
6. The first proposal concerned the evaluation criteria for the judgements of outstanding and good in each of the judgement areas. We asked:
 - if the characteristics of 'good', as they were set out, accurately describe the overall experiences that children and young people should have when attending schemes
 - if the characteristics of 'good', as they were set out, accurately describe what should be expected in the following judgement areas:
 - how well children are helped and protected
 - the effectiveness of leaders and managers
 - working in partnership to improve outcomes
 - if the 'outstanding' criteria captured well the effectiveness of those residential holiday schemes that were making an exceptional and enduring positive difference to the lives of children and young people.
7. The second proposal was that a judgement of inadequate for 'how well children are helped and protected' would always limit the 'overall experiences' judgement to inadequate. We also proposed that a judgement of inadequate in the other judgements would be likely to limit the 'overall experiences' judgement to 'inadequate' and certainly to no more than 'requires improvement'.

8. The third proposal was that inspections of residential holiday schemes for disabled children should remain unannounced.
9. The fourth proposal was that Ofsted should send online questionnaires annually to those involved with residential holiday schemes to enable them to provide feedback. The feedback received from these questionnaires would be included in the evidence that informs inspection outcomes.

Overview of responses

General feedback

10. The majority of respondents support our proposals. The comments received have helped in finalising the details of the inspection framework.
11. Nearly all respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with each of the seven questions.
12. We received most responses from commissioners of services for residential holiday schemes followed by independent providers of a residential holiday scheme. Other respondents included parents of children that have used a residential holiday scheme, representative members of a national or regional group involved with schemes and people who worked in the sector.

Proposal 1: What evaluation criteria describe

- That the evaluation criteria clearly describe the characteristics of 'good' and 'outstanding' in each judgement area

Figure 1: Responses to proposals on the evaluation criteria for good and outstanding overall experiences

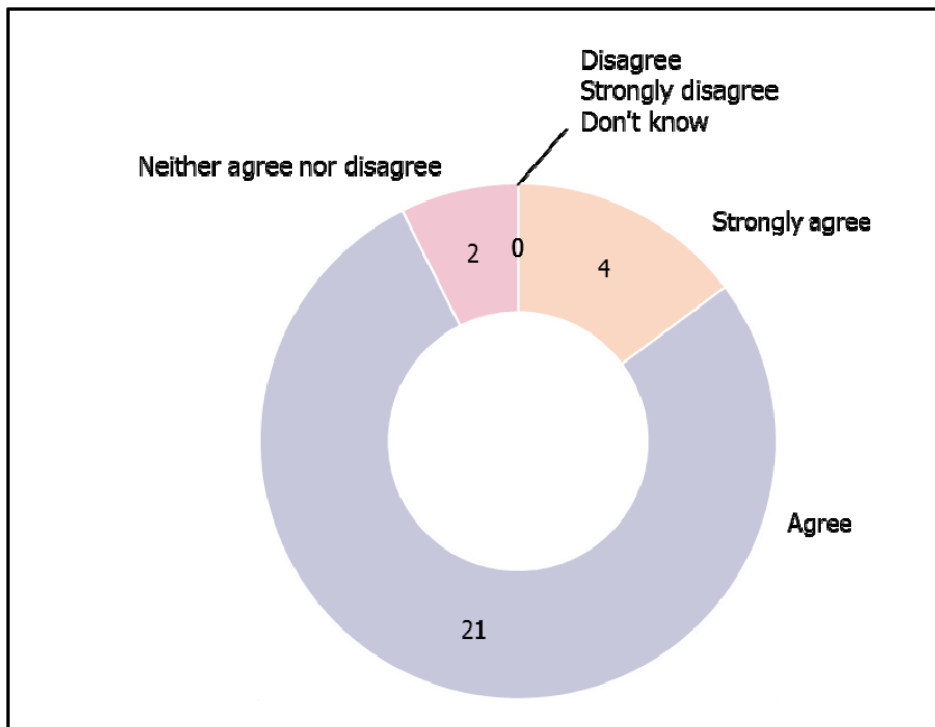


Figure 1a : Responses to proposals on the evaluation criteria for how well children are helped and protected

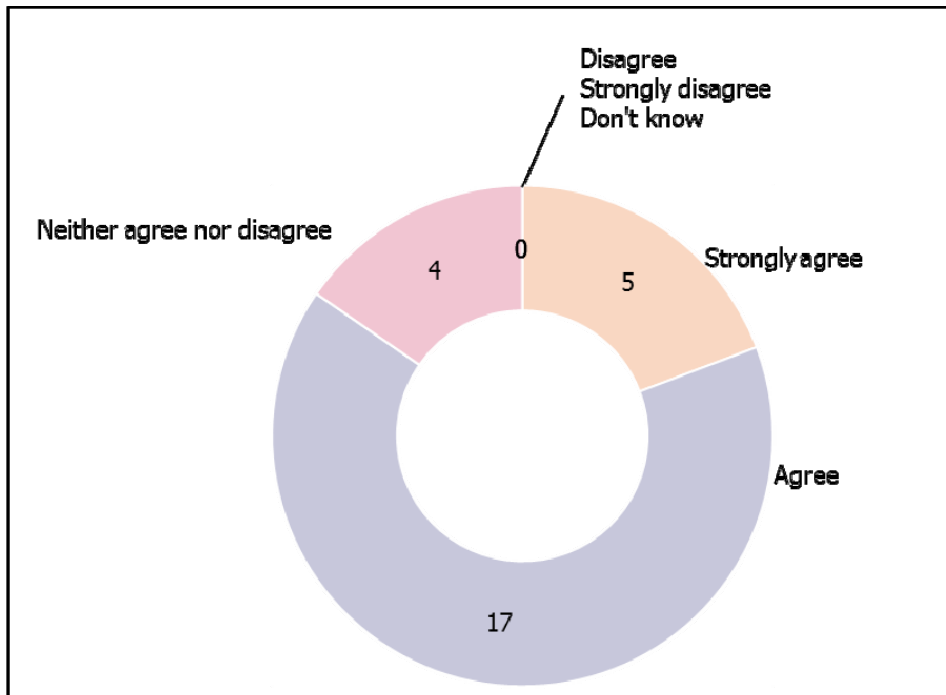


Figure 1b: Responses to proposals on the evaluation criteria for effectiveness of leaders and managers

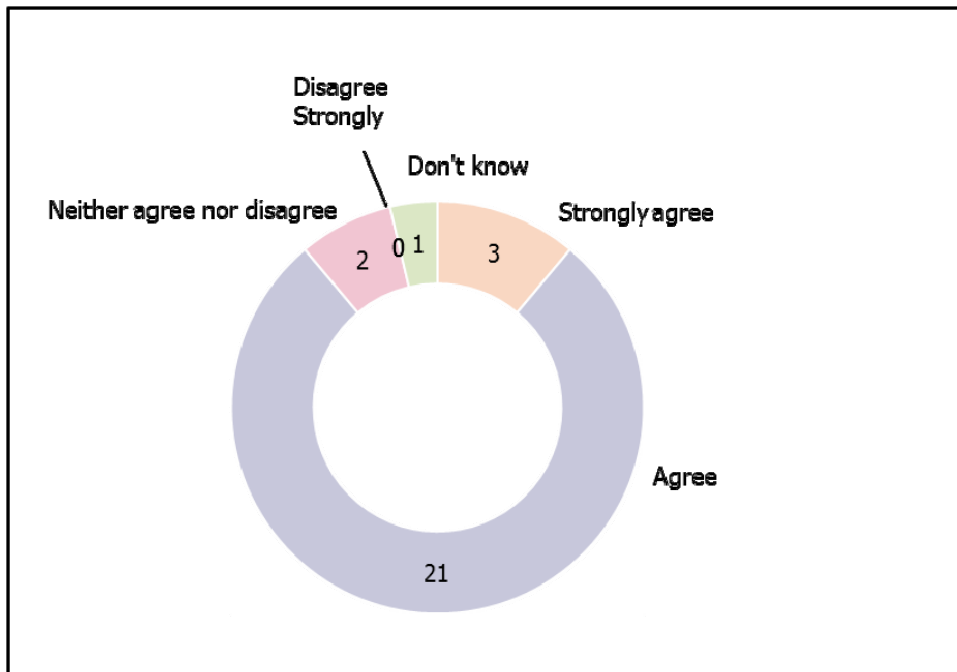
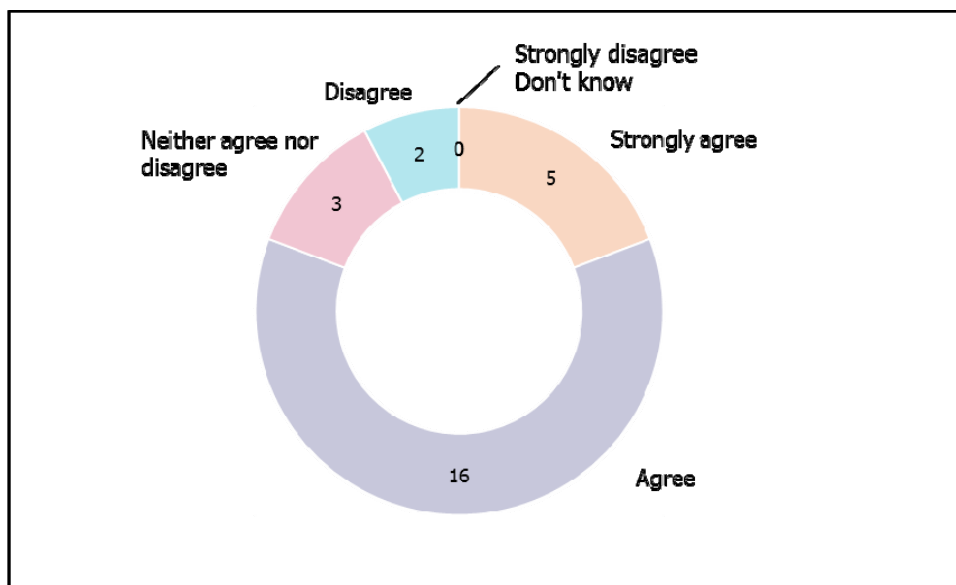


Figure 1c: Responses to proposals on the evaluation criteria for effective partnership working

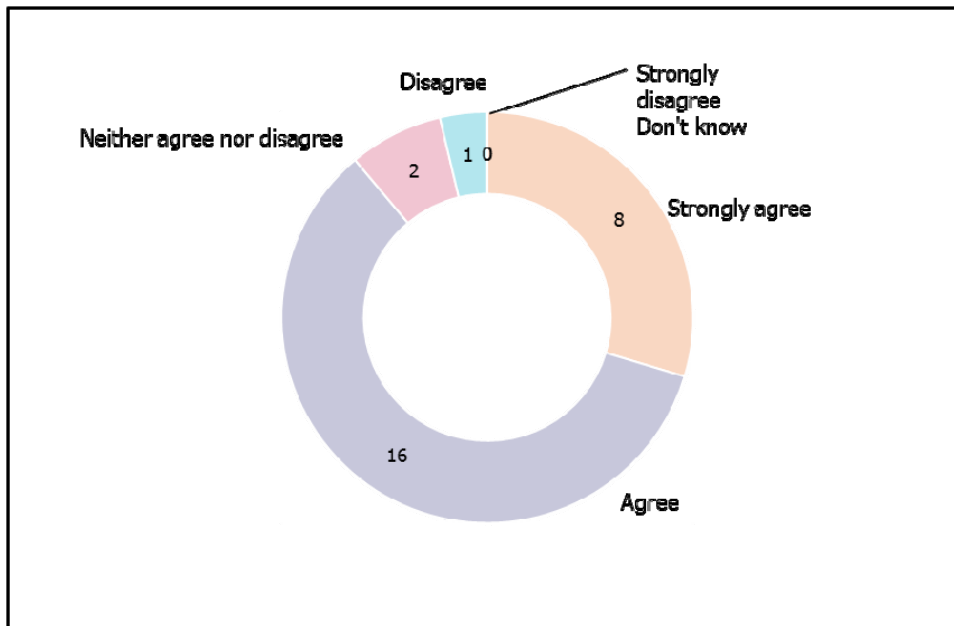


13. All respondents agreed that the evaluation criteria should describe the characteristics of good and outstanding in all four judgement areas. While the total number of responses was low, the feedback received has led to a range of revisions to the framework, including:
- an additional descriptor for 'good' within 'overall experiences' and 'how well children are helped and protected', which emphasises that all potential risks should be managed effectively so that children are able to enjoy their holiday fully
 - minor revisions that emphasise more strongly the need for support and activities to be responsive to individual needs.
14. Some respondents had concerns that potential providers may be deterred from establishing schemes because the framework appeared relevant to an overly narrow model of delivery. The amendments that seek to resolve these concerns are:
- minor changes to reflect more accurately the diverse and varied nature of potential providers, e.g. schemes may be based on a single activity; providers may be national, rather than locally-based; schemes may be run by community representatives, rather than professional organisations
 - minor changes to descriptors that take into account more fully the short timespan of most schemes and their scope to increase the independence skills of children and young people and to develop relationships with the local community.

Proposal 2: Inadequate judgements

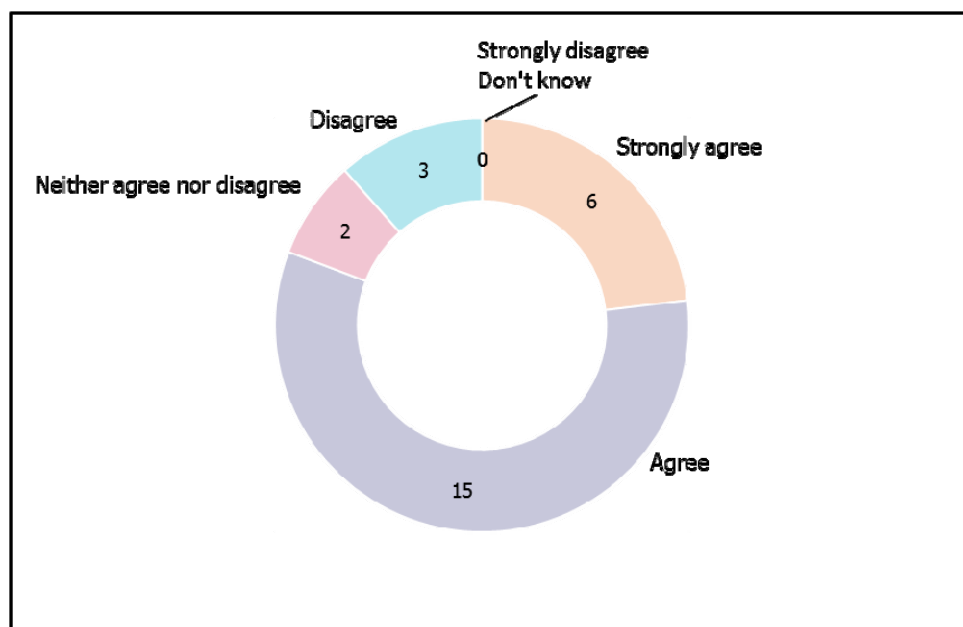
- That a judgement of 'inadequate' in 'how well children are helped and protected' will always limit the 'overall experiences' judgement to 'inadequate'

Figure 2: Responses to proposal 2 about inadequate judgements



- That a judgement of 'inadequate' in any other of the four judgement areas is likely to limit the 'overall experiences' judgement to 'inadequate', but, in all instances, to no more than 'requires improvement'

Figure 3: Responses to proposal 2 about inadequate judgements



- There was strong agreement to this proposal. We received a small number of additional comments about the importance of child protection.
- Respondents supported the descriptors and proposal for limiting the 'overall experiences' judgement if 'how well children are helped and protected' was judged inadequate.
- One commissioner told us:

'Being helped and protected is essential to a good overall experience for children and young people'.
- We will implement the proposals about limiting judgements in the revised framework.

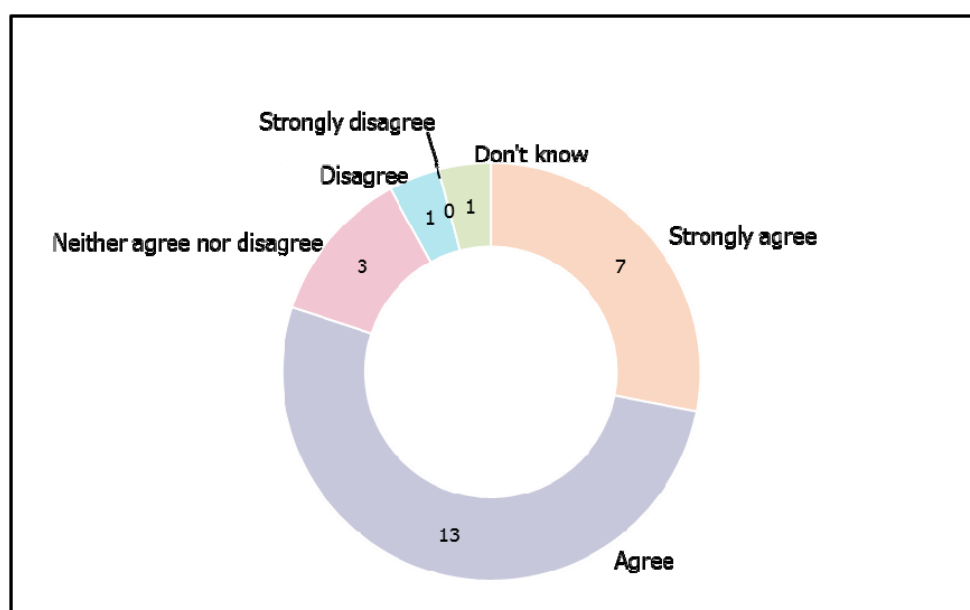
Proposal 3: Unannounced inspections

- That inspections of residential holiday schemes for disabled children remain unannounced
19. There was overall support for inspections to remain unannounced. Therefore, there will be no change to the length of notice given for inspections.
 20. A small number of respondents expressed views that inspections should be less frequent for good or outstanding schemes. However, current regulations stipulate that inspections must be annual.
 21. We believe that it is right that inspections remain annual, given the likely turnover of staff working in residential holiday schemes, but we will ensure that all feedback about the notice given for inspections is shared with the Department for Education.
 22. There was also feedback that annual inspections are sometimes unnecessarily disruptive to schemes' activities. We will only inspect when schemes are running. However, we will always ask schemes to provide us with details of their planned activities in advance, so that we may ensure that disruption to children's and young people's enjoyment of their holidays is kept to an absolute minimum, without undermining the integrity of the unannounced inspection.

Proposal 4: Annual online questionnaires

- That Ofsted should send online questionnaires annually to those involved with residential holiday schemes

Figure 4: Responses to proposal 4 about annual questionnaires



23. There was overall agreement to this proposal and we will implement this from July 2014.
24. Some respondents sought reassurances about the process of distributing questionnaires and the range of communication methods that should be used to ensure that Ofsted communicates effectively with all children and young people. We will address these issues within the guidance for *Conducting inspections of residential holiday schemes for disabled children*, which will be published in July 2014.

Next steps

25. We will be publishing the revised inspection framework and accompanying guidance for inspectors in August 2014.

Annex: Respondents to the consultation

The types of respondents to the consultation can be seen below.

Type of respondent	Number of responses
a parent whose child has used a residential holiday scheme for disabled children	2
a child who has used a residential holiday scheme for disabled children	0
a relative of a child who has used a residential holiday scheme for disabled children	0
a commissioner of services for residential holiday schemes for disabled children	11
a representative member of a national or regional group involved with residential holiday schemes for disabled children	1
an independent provider of a residential holiday scheme for disabled children	4
a local authority provider of a residential holiday scheme for disabled children	0
an employee of a residential holiday scheme for disabled children	0
a social worker or manager working with parents and children who have used a residential holiday scheme for disabled children	1
Prefer not to say	0
Total	19*

*8 respondents skipped question

The responses included submissions from the following organisations:

- Worcestershire County Council, Commissioning
- Oldham Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- The Lodge Hill Trust
- Heswall Disabled Children's Holiday Fund
- Aspire National Training Centre
- Seashell Trust
- Bradford MDC
- National Deaf Children's Society
- Leicestershire County Council Local Authority
- London Borough of Hackney Children and Young People's Service
- Active Impact
- Gloucestershire County Council
- London Borough of Camden