

Future of social care inspection

Consultation questionnaire

This consultation seeks your views on proposed changes across Ofsted's inspections of children's social care. It has four parts:

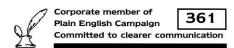
- principles for children's social care inspections
- a new approach to inspections of local authority children's services from 2018
- a new common inspection framework for social care establishments, agencies, boarding schools and residential special schools from April 2017
- changes to inspections 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

This consultation is open from 28 June to 9 September 2016.

Published: June 2016

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 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 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 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 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 s	pecify
About you	

ADOUT 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 agence	У	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	or your answers.		
What other principles do yo	ou think we shou	ld 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 answerinspections.	rs about pro	portionate	
We propose to carry out short modular inspective child's journey to check that the quality of support an authority's improvement journey up inspection	services has l	oeen maintai	ned and to
See paragraphs 21 to 22 of the full consultation	n document f	or more infor	rmation.
Do you agree that Ofsted should carry ou	t short mod	ular inspec	tions:
	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 e programme:	each of thes	e areas in t	he new
	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
child in need of help and protection			
crina in ricca of ricip and protection			
achieving permanence for children looked after			



What other/different modules should we have and why?

Module	Reason
Please tell us the reasons for y	our 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:					
through a narrative witho	ut graded judge Disagree	ments?	Don't k	now	
through a narrative withou	ut graded judge	ments?			
Please tell us the reasons make?	for your answer	s about the	e judgemen	ts we will	



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	of the financial	inspec over t	er holiday	Don't know	
Should we ask local authorities to provide an update to their self- evaluation at the point of inspection?						
Agree		Disagree		Do	n't Know	
		for your answers lf-evaluation of fr				



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			



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 wo with us on inspections? Inspection type Agree Disagree Don't k 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?	nt
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opportunities for prospective secondees from local authorities to wo with us on inspections? Inspection type	
Full judgement inspection	
Short judgement inspection	11000
Modular inspection	
Monitoring visits Please tell us the reasons for your answers about secondment	



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 inspection framework?	s for your answer about ir	ntroducing a common



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 jud	lacment structure de vou	think we should apply?
Tryou disagree, what jud	lgement structure do you	think we should apply:
Please tell us the reasons	s for your answers about t	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?

Somewhat

Disagree

Mostly agree

agree		agree		
Are there any k	ey areas missir	ng that you thin	ık we should in	clude?

Don't know

Completely



Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the key areas for the overall experiences and progress of children and young people':						
	children and yo	. .	e helped and	protected		
This judgeme	nt takes account of:					
supp	well risks are identif ort and care provide asingly safe	•	•			
	esponse to children ding exploitation, ne	, •	•	•		
consi	well staff manage si stent boundaries co ren and young peop	ntribute to a feelir				
and o	her safeguarding are other government re alisation and extrem	equirements, prom		•		
See paragrap	hs 69 to 70 of the fu	ıll consultation do	cument for more	information.		
	e with the key are d 'how well childr udgement?	-		_		
Completely agree	Mostly agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Don't know		



- Rey ureus	missing tha		
	s for your a		r 'how
			r 'how

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 I	key areas missi	ng that you thii	nk we should in	clude?
Please tell us the 'effectiveness o		our answers al nanagers'	oout the key are	eas for the



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
•	I should usually return to ovement within 12 to 18	•
Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Do you agree that the no	the full consultation documer tice period for the inspect d be reduced from 10 wor	tion of independent
Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Please tell us the reasons IFA inspections.	s for your answers about	the arrangements for



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 whic	ch 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.

56.0771						
How did you hear about this co	onsultation?					
 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 consultations? If so, please tel	•	ve or do differ	ently for futur	e		



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. Ge	ender								
Fema	Female Male Male								
2. Ag	je								
Und	er 14	14–18	19–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65+	
3. Et	hnic o	rigin							
(a) H	ow wo	uld you d	escribe you	ır national (group?				
	Britis	h or mixe	ed British						
	Engli	sh							
	Irish								
	North	nern Irish							
	Scott	ish							
	Wels	h							
	Othe	r (specify	if you wish	1)					



(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 backgr	ound		Any other mixed ethnic background		
(specify if you wish)			(specify if you wish)		
Black			White		
African			Any White background (specify if you wish)		
Caribbaan			Any other other bedressed		
Caribbean			Any other ethnic background		
Any other Black backgr (specify if you wish)	ound		Any other background (specify if you wish)		
Chinese					
	. d				
Any Chinese backgroun (specify if you wish)	iu				
(66.6) / 66/					
4. Sexual orientation	on				
Heterosexual	Lesbian		Gay Bisexual		
5. Religion/belief					
Buddhist	Muslim				
Christian	Sikh				
Hindu 🗌	Any other,	please	state:		
Jewish 🗌	None				
6. Disability					
Do you consider yours	self to have	a disa	bility? Yes No		

Thank you for taking part in our consultation.



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