



No: 045
12 November 2013

One Minute Guide: Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services – Single Inspection Framework 2013

What is it?

Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers including fostering and adoption. This new Inspection Framework will run over a three year programme during which all Local Authorities will be inspected at least once.

From April 2015, an additional framework will be implemented under which joint inspections delivered by Care Quality Commission, HMI Prisons and other agencies. A sample of local authorities will be visited. This will not replace the single inspection framework.

What matters in this Framework?

- How well you do things and the difference that you make – what is the evidence of improved outcomes?
- The effectiveness of how social workers and other professionals work directly with families and manage the risks involved?
- The quality of interventions in families, when risk remains or intensifies.
- The quality of management oversight and decision making.
- How well you help, protect and care for children in your statutory service.
- How much you know about and the services you provide with partners, for children living subject to the 'toxic trio' (parental mental ill health, domestic violence and drug or alcohol misuse).
- Leadership and strategic direction.
- Seeking and learning from feedback (service users and staff).
- Accountability to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

Key Areas for the Inspection

- Children and young people missing from care/education and at risk of sexual exploitation.
- The promotion of education for children looked after.
- Children living out of the area.
- The offer of early help and intervention.
- The quality of Child Protection Plans – how long, why, evidence of change.
- The quality of care planning for looked after children.
- The quality of housing and support for care leavers.
- The effectiveness and impact of the LSCB

Scope

- Children and young people who are receiving or who need early help.
- Children and young people who are referred to Redbridge and are assessed.
- Children and young people who become the subject of a child protection plan or have been the subject of a plan and need continuing support.
- Children who are receiving support through a child in need plan.
- Children looked after and care leavers.
- Children and young people living out of their home area

Timings

Inspections under this new framework are due to commence from 19 November 2013. Each inspection will take place over four weeks. It will begin with a notification on a Tuesday, followed by the arrival of a small team of inspectors on site on Wednesday. Their first focus will be the “front door” of i.e. the Child Protection and Assessment Team. The Team will leave by 14:00 on Friday at the end of the first week. During week two, we will need to audit open cases selected by Ofsted. The inspectors will then return in weeks three and four to track cases and interview staff, service users and to continue their inspection.

Inspectors will be:

- Asking us to auditing 18 cases, looking particularly at the experience of the children, family carer and the effectiveness of the help provided.
- Tracking experiences and quality of practice in the cases of at least 30 children and young people.
- Sample the experiences and quality of practice in the cases of at least 50 children and young people at key thresholds and within this specific age groups etc.
- This will mean that a minimum of 80 children and young people’s cases will be part of the inspection.
- Looking at information provided in the form of Annex A which will provide key information on the area, the children and young people that we are working with, our workforce and performance information. This information is currently being collated and regularly updated by the Governance Systems and Resources Team.
- Methodology will include observations of practice, meeting with groups including Children in Care Council (CiCC), foster carers and other key stakeholders.

When will we know the result?

A provisional judgement will be made shortly after the inspection and will be discussed with the Director of Children’s Services and senior managers. A draft report will be sent within 25 days of the inspection. There will be an opportunity to clarify any inaccuracies before the final version is published.

How can I find out more?

For further information you can email workforcedevelopment@redbridge.gov.uk