

## **Message from Yvette Stanley, Ofsted National Director Regulation and Social Care, 15 May 2020**

To children's social care providers and local authorities:

As I said in my blog this week, times like these can bring out the best in us. Many unsung heroes have come to the fore in recent weeks. As we arrive at [Foster Care Fortnight](#), I want to focus on foster carers. Up and down the country, foster carers are helping to keep the most vulnerable children safe and settled during these truly exceptional times. If you've ever worked with foster carers, you'll have marvelled at their commitment and adaptability. So, you'll not be surprised at how they've responded to the challenge of the last few weeks.

You can read the rest of my blog at:

<https://socialcareinspection.blog.gov.uk/2020/05/12/foster-care-fortnight-2020-extraordinary-times-need-extraordinary-people/>

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### **Registering children's homes in an emergency: fast-track applications**

We will now fast track applications to register children's homes that are needed urgently to provide placements for children as a direct result of the pandemic. These can only be from:

- local authorities (LAs)
- existing, registered private/voluntary providers that can demonstrate the application has been directly commissioned by an LA.

If you need to apply for a fast-track application, please [follow our fast-track application guidance](#).

We have already registered our first children's home via this process.

### **Letter from the Minister to those working in children's residential care homes**

Earlier this week, Vicky Ford, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, wrote to those working in children's residential care homes. We have attached this letter.

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I hope our communications with you continue to be helpful. Please do continue to send your queries to [socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk). My thanks to ALL the fabulous carers out there – foster carers, adoptive carers, colleagues caring for our children in children's homes, residential special schools, the secure estate, residential family centres and everyone providing support to vulnerable families.

Best wishes,  
Yvette