

## **Message from Yvette Stanley, Ofsted National Director Regulation and Social Care, 29 May 2020**

To children's social care providers and local authorities:

Almost three months into the pandemic and many of us now have either experienced the loss of a loved one or we know someone who has. This is so very sad and we all share that loss. Taking time to mourn is incredibly important. Not losing sight of the positives is also very important. We've heard some great stories about young people responding so well to lock-down – young people really appreciating keeping in touch more regularly with their personal advisers or social workers through social media and children really flourishing through quality time with their foster carers. Again, I thank each and every one of you for your continued support for the children and families we all seek to support.

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### **Postponing routine inspection: implications for commissioning**

We are aware that some providers may be worried that the current postponement of routine inspection can lead to a delay in the opportunity to improve their latest inspection judgement. We realise that this is likely to be of particular concern to services that were judged 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement to be good' at their last inspection.

Decisions about where children should live and receive help should always take into account a range of factors including, where relevant, evidence from recent Ofsted inspections and visits. Commissioning frameworks may need to be more flexible while we are unable to undertake inspections that lead to judgements.

You will be aware that urgent monitoring activity has continued during the restrictions, including the monitoring of services that were judged inadequate. We would expect that reports from these monitoring visits inform commissioners' decisions.

We will be sharing a similar message with local authorities.

### **Online forms to apply for registration as a social care provider**

Our social care registration forms have moved. From 27 May, the three forms should be accessed via GOV.UK instead of Ofsted Online.

The forms:

- SC1 – apply to register a children's social care service
- SC2 – declaration and consent for those connected to a children's social care service
- SC3 – report changes to your children's social care service

will all move over. There is NO change to the regulations or guidance about what you need to tell us or what information we require from you.

What is changing and not changing:

- forms are much more user friendly and in the familiar GOV.UK format
- a new, more secure payment system is being introduced
- the forms ask for broadly the same information as before, but are easier to use on mobile and other devices.

Please could you:

- replace any bookmarks you have to the Ofsted Online service
- read the new guidance [<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/becoming-and-running-a-childrens-social-care-service>] on GOV.UK – this contains all the relevant information for you to successfully submit a form
- give us feedback via the links provided at the end of each form.

We will also be updating the online social care incident notification form in June. The Ofsted Online site will be closing soon.

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I hope this update is helpful and please do continue to send us your queries to [socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk).

Best wishes,  
Yvette