

## Message from Yvette Stanley, Ofsted National Director Regulation and Social Care, 7 August 2020

To children's social care providers and local authorities:

We continue to move forward to re-opening society and trying to achieve some sense of normality. That said we know for millions of people particularly in the north of England that local lockdowns continue to constrain people's lives. Children's social care services remain under pressure and we know leaders across the system are extremely apprehensive about what the autumn will bring as schools re-open. Many of our workforce who have been deployed with local authorities and other government departments are returning to Ofsted to prepare for the restart in September. It has been very heartening to hear positive feedback about how Ofsted staff have performed during their temporary secondment. We are now working with our inspectors to ensure that our visits over the coming months take full account of the context you are working in and are supportive to your recovery planning.

---

### Inspection guidance from September 2020 – social care

We have told you previously about our [plans](#) for inspections from September 2020. We intend to publish the social care inspection guidance that we will use for these inspections on 17 August 2020. This will include publishing guidance on both the inspection of local authority children's services and on providers we inspect under the social care common inspection framework.

### Sending independent visitor reports and quality of care reviews to Ofsted

Social care registered providers are required by regulations to send certain reports to Ofsted when they have been produced. We also ask some providers to share with us reports they have prepared under certain national minimum standards (NMS). These include:

- children's homes and secure children's homes – reports under regulations 44 and 45
- independent fostering agencies – reports under regulation 35 and NMS 25
- residential family centres – reports under regulations 23 and 25
- voluntary adoption agencies and adoption support agencies - reports under NMS 25
- residential holiday schemes for disabled children - reports made under regulations 29 and 30

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), there are likely to be delays in reviewing incoming post. Therefore, we ask that you send in these reports via email instead of post as this is the most effective way of sending us information at the moment.

Please email them to [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk) and include Ofsted's unique reference number (URN) for your service and the date on which any visit occurred.

If you are a children's home and your independent visitor sends the reports to Ofsted, please pass this message to them on our behalf.

---

I hope this update is helpful to you. If you have any further queries or feedback, please continue to send them to [socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@ofsted.gov.uk).

Best wishes,

Yvette.