

Results of Ofsted Consultation on New Local Authority Children's Services Inspection Proposals cont.

safe. New full inspections of safeguarding and looked after children will include a strong focus on multi-agency working. Any other inspections of safeguarding or looked after children will be targeted and be proportionate to risk.

- Ofsted will expect to see evidence of effective self-evaluation but will not prescribe the format.
- Ofsted will gather evidence about the quality and impact of commissioning and commissioned services through its inspection of safeguarding and looked after children, relevant triggered inspections, self-review and other available documentation.
- Ofsted will test the impact of a shorter notice period in pilot inspections. Evaluation of these pilots will include further sampling of the views of children and young people, as well as the views of the authorities taking part in the pilot inspections.
- Full inspections will consider safeguarding in a broad sense and will include a focus on partnership working.
- Ofsted will test the use of 'limiting judgements' in pilot inspections in early March 2009. For looked after children, for example, overall effectiveness cannot be good if children are not safeguarded well. Similarly, safeguarding cannot be

adequate overall if a key area of safeguarding is judged to be inadequate.

- Ofsted will review the use of the annual unannounced inspections to gauge risk and provide assurance in the pilot inspections in March 2009. We will also review whether we need to increase the number of inspector days for these inspections.
- Ofsted is proposing a new, short annual questionnaire to gather views of looked after children and young people that will provide evidence for inspection. They are considering how this may be extended to include a wider group of children and young people. Ofsted will gather the views of children and young people directly in the full inspections of safeguarding and looked after children. Ofsted will also focus on whether the views of children and young people are taken into account by service providers, both formally as part of assessment, planning and review and more widely as part of service improvement and design. Ofsted also intends to conduct a survey of voluntary and community sectors' views.

The joint inspectorate CAA framework will be published on 10 February alongside an outline of arrangements for contributing to CAA, including the performance profile and annual rating of local authority children's services, and proposals for inspecting

safeguarding and services for looked after children.

It is planned to pilot these inspections in early March 2009, taking account of relevant findings from Lord Laming's review. A final version of the arrangements for inspecting safeguarding and services for looked after children will be published in April.

We will engage further with users and stakeholders about the arrangements for the performance profile and annual rating between February and June 2009, with a view to providing It is anticipated that the first performance profiles will be available by July 2009 and the first ratings in November 2009.

More information can be found at the short link below:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Comprehensive-Area-Assessment-stakeholder-responses-to-Ofsted-s-consultation-on-its-contribution-to-comprehensive-area-assessment