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## 1. What is the social care common inspection framework (SCCIF)?

The SCCIF is a common inspection framework for eight different types of registered and inspected services. It brings together the separate inspection methodology and guidance for these services into one shared framework.

The SCCIF brings greater consistency to the judgements we make, the criteria we use to evaluate services, and the way we carry out inspections.

## 2. Which services will be inspected under the SCCIF?

The SCCIF applies to inspections of:

- children's homes, including secure children's homes
- independent fostering agencies
- voluntary adoption agencies

adoption support agencies

- residential family centres
- residential holiday schemes for disabled children
- boarding schools and residential special schools
- the residential provision of further education colleges

### **3. Will inspections be the same for all these services?**

No. The SCCIF is not a one-size-fits-all framework.

Having one framework avoids unnecessary inconsistencies in the way we inspect. But the framework also ensures that we are able to address the different functions and responsibilities of all eight types of service.

For example, for inspections of adoption agencies and residential family centres, we make judgements about the experiences and progress of adult service users as well as those of children and young people.

The evaluation criteria are broadly consistent. There are shared issues that are important to the lives of children and young people, wherever they live or receive help. But the criteria have been adapted for each type of service, reflecting the differences in what they do. This way, inspectors can secure the clearest and most relevant evidence of a service's impact.

### **4. What will be different under the SCCIF?**

In many ways, the introduction of the SCCIF builds on changes we have already made to the way we inspect.

The SCCIF places the experiences and progress of children and other service users at the heart of all its inspections. It means that inspectors will spend less time looking at processes and more time looking at the impact of services on children's lives. Our experiences of inspecting children's homes and local authorities in this way, in particular, tells us that this is the right focus.

The SCCIF sets out our expectations of providers clearly and consistently. We think it provides a fairer approach to inspections. We expect it to lead to a better understanding of children's experiences and progress.

### **5. What do you mean by 'children's progress'?**

The SCCIF makes it clear that, when assessing progress, inspectors should take into account individual children's starting points and circumstances. We recognise that for some children, because of their previous life experiences, progress is not always straightforward. Even slight progress in a particular aspect of their lives, such as education, may represent a significant improvement for some children and young people.

### **6. Does the SCCIF mean that you are 'raising the bar' for a good or outstanding judgement?**

No. We have not intended to raise the thresholds for judgements by introducing the SCCIF. We will,

however, be formally reviewing its impact, including any impact on inspection outcomes.

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