

Young person's survey on inspecting local authority children's services

Age group: 0–18

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Questions you may have

What's this survey about?

This survey has been written to help you have your say about how local authority children's services should be inspected.

What are local authority children's services?

Most local authorities (councils) have a children's services department; you might have known it before as social services. This will have within it social workers whose job it is to help local children who are at risk of harm, or who need someone other than their parents to look after them. Children's services have a responsibility to help keep children safe and make sure that people help them by giving them the care and attention they need.

Who's asking for my views?

We are the people who inspect local authority child protection and services for children in care. We are called Ofsted, which stands for the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. We want your views on how we inspect children's services to help make sure that they are doing their job well.

Why?

We want to make some changes to how we inspect. This is to make sure that services for children and young people in need of protection or care are really helping them. This is a **real** opportunity for you to have your say.

Can inspection really make a difference?

Yes, inspection can make a difference and with your help we can make sure that it continues to do so. We already do what we can to encourage many services to do better; and we know that most are trying very hard to do the best they can for children and young people.

What we want to do

At Ofsted we want to do what we can to help improve the lives of children, but we need your help! We want to give children and young people a bigger say in our plans to inspect local authority children's services.

What we want to know from you

We have eight questions that we would like to hear your views on. Your views will make a difference and help us to improve the way we inspect local authority child protection and children in care services. For every question, just tick the one box that you most agree with.

Inspecting child protection services

We want to inspect all local authority child protection services (there are 152 of these in England) whose job it is to help keep children safe. These inspections will be unannounced 'surprise' visits. This means we will not tell anyone in the local authority when we are visiting them to do an inspection. This way staff cannot prepare. When we turn up we will see how things really are and what happens on a normal day. These inspections will last for up to two weeks. They will look at how well different services are working with each other to help keep children safe in their area.

Q1. Do you agree or disagree with our plans to inspect all local authority child protection services whose job it is to help keep children safe?

- I agree.
- I don't agree.
- I'm not sure.

Why do you think this?

Q2. Do you agree or disagree that our child protection inspections should be 'surprise visits'?

- I agree.
- I don't agree.
- I'm not sure.

Why do you think this?

Q3. Do you agree or disagree that when we inspect local authority child protection services, we look at whether children and young people were given the right help to keep them safe?

- I agree.
- I don't agree.
- I'm not sure.

Why do you think this?

Inspecting services for children in care

We also want to inspect local authority services for children who are in care (sometimes called looked after children). There are 152 local authorities in England and we will inspect services in about 20–25 of these every year. Ofsted will give a little bit of notice that inspectors are coming and the inspection will last about a week. This means we will tell the local authority a few days before inspecting them.

Q4. We will inspect services for children in care from 20–25 local authorities every year. Do you think this is ok?

- Yes.
- No.

If no, why not?

Q5. Do you agree or disagree that when we inspect local authority children in care services, we look at whether children and young people in care were given the right help?

- I agree
- I don't agree.
- I'm not sure.

Why do you think this?

Re-visiting services

Some children's services don't do very well when they are inspected. If we think that a local authority's children's services are not good enough at keeping children safe or looking after children who are in care, we will come back to inspect them again to make sure they are getting better.

Q6. Do you agree or disagree that we should go back to local authorities that did not do very well during their last inspection?

- I agree
- I don't agree.
- I'm not sure.

Why do you think this?

Q7. Do you agree or disagree that when we inspect we should find out how well local authorities listen to children's and young people's views?

- I agree
- I don't agree.
- I'm not sure.

Why do you think this?

Q8. Is there anything else that **you** think we should include when we carry out these inspections?

Additional questions about you

Your answers to the following questions will help us to evaluate how successfully we are gathering views from all sections of society. We would like to assure you that all responses are anonymous and you do not have to answer every question.

Please tick the appropriate box.

1. Gender

Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Age

7-11 <input type="checkbox"/>	12-14 <input type="checkbox"/>	15-16 <input type="checkbox"/>	16 and over <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Ethnic origin

How would you describe your ethnic group?

Asian		Mixed ethnic origin	
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black African and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Caribbean and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Asian background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other mixed ethnic background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black		White	
African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any White background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other ethnic background	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Black background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any Chinese background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

4. Disability

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Thank you.

When you have completed this form, you can email it to:
newLAinspection@ofsted.gov.uk.

You can also post it to:

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