



Guidance

Summary of framework changes

Updated 17 August 2020

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This section outlines changes to inspection practice. This does not include corrections or changes made to improve clarity in how the framework is written.

December 2019

In the section on focused visit topics, we've made clear that focused visits:

- about children in care will consider children in unregulated and/or unregistered provision
- about care leavers will consider the quality and suitability of accommodation

In the section on monitoring visits: added an approximate timetable for activities after an inadequate judgement to help make the timescales clearer.

In the care leavers and transitions section of the evaluation criteria: provided additional clarity about what inspectors look for when young people live in unregulated settings.

In the Annex A request for the impact of leadership: added a new request for rapid reviews carried out following child safeguarding incident notifications.

August 2019

Clarified arrangements for sharing provisional judgements at the end of the inspection.

Added a new request to Annex A for information about the local authority's use of unregulated provision.

Changes to the presentation and layout of tables and charts to improve the accessibility of the framework.

April 2019

For standard and short inspections, the set-up discussion on the notification day can happen in person if it is practical for the lead inspector and DCS to do so.

Annex A: Child-level data lists: the guidance and request has been changed to align more closely with existing data submissions. The Excel spreadsheet with detailed guidance has been updated and published with this framework.

Annex A: Information the local authority uses to manage its services:

- Amended items: 1.09, 2.02, 2.04 and 3.07
- New items: 3.13, 3.14, 3.15 and 3.16

December 2018

Updated arrangements for monitoring visits to inadequate local authorities to provide more flexible and proportionate timing.

Redrafted guidance on recording evidence to reflect new recording tools.

Added new guidance for inspectors when inspecting a local authority being reviewed and/or supported by a children's services commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for Education.

Added a request for the local authority to share an early draft of its action plan following an area for priority action at a focused visit.

A new footnote in Annex A that adds some flexibility in sharing child-level data.

Additional guidance in Annex A on the information inspectors request about children who are electively home educated.

September 2018

We will no longer carry out re-inspections of inadequate local authorities using the single inspection framework. We will re-inspect using a standard inspection under this framework.

Added a reference to our new privacy notices.

Introduced additional moderation for focused visit letters that identify an area for priority action.

New guidance on producing an action plan after giving an area for priority action on a focused visit.

Clarified our arrangements for a summary report for children and young people after standard and short inspections.

In Annex A, 2 items were numbered 3.04 in the list of 'Information the local authority uses to manage its services'. We corrected this, which also affects the numbering of subsequent documents in this list.

February 2018

Added guidance for inspecting local authorities that are part of a regional adoption agency.

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