

Children's and young person's guide to the fostering services consultation

This is a guide to help children and young people have their say on how fostering services should be inspected.

Please let us know what you think by 31 August 2011.

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Questions you may have

What's this guide about?

This guide has been written to help you have your say on how you think fostering services should be inspected.

Who's asking for my views?

Ofsted stands for the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. We inspect fostering services. We want to know your views to help make sure that the fostering services we inspect are doing their best.

Can inspection really make things better?

Yes. We encourage services to do better by telling them what to improve and pointing out what they are doing well.

What we want to do

At Ofsted we want to do all we can to help improve the lives of children and young people and we need your help! We need you to tell us what you think of our plans to inspect fostering services.

How we want to do it

We want inspectors to make best use of their time. This means getting the balance right between spending time talking with children and young people, checking the paperwork and meeting staff and managers.

We want inspectors to be able to decide whether a service is outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate.

We want to give fostering services 10 days' notice of inspection. This way, when we turn up, we can see what happens every day and staff don't have too much time to prepare for or worry about our visit. We think we will still be able to receive views from children and young people before the inspection.

At the moment all fostering services have to be inspected every three years. We want your views on whether really good fostering services could be inspected less often.

Things we want inspectors to look for

How well children progress

We want to look at things like health, education, contact with friends and family, how involved children and young people are in making decisions about their care, what they are told about being fostered and about the family they go to live with, and how they are helped when they leave. We will look at how children's and young people's needs are taken into account and whether they feel safe and settled in their foster home. We want to know whether a young person's needs to do with their culture, religion and disability are being properly considered and met. We will also look at how needs to do with what age the young person is, or what sex or sexual orientation they are, are considered and met.

How good the fostering service is

We want to look at how the fostering service gets their foster carers and what help carers are given to care for children and young people. Do they know about the children and young people placed, can they make the right decisions and are children and young people treated as part of the family? We will also look at how fostering services decide which foster placement is the right one for individual children and young people.

How safe children are

We want to look at what the fostering service is doing to keep children and young people safe. We also want to see whether children and young people can talk to someone who is not from the fostering service if they want to. We will check what steps the fostering service takes to look into any concerns or complaints that children and young people have.

How well the fostering service is run

We want to see if the fostering service is clear about what it should be doing and has the right staff, resources and record-keeping to help it improve. We also want to see if staff from the fostering service, foster carers, and children and young people are all treated fairly.

What we want to know from you

We have seven questions that we would like to hear your views on. Your views will help us improve the way we inspect fostering services. For each question, tick **one** box that most matches your answer. Don't worry if you don't want to answer some of the questions: just leave them out and tell us about what matters to you.

Q1. How important is it for inspectors to ask for the views of children and young people who are fostered?

- It's really important
- It's quite important
- I don't think it's important
- Not sure.

Why do you think this?

Q2. We want to tell fostering services that we will be inspecting them 10 days before the inspection. Is this the right amount of time?

- Yes, this is the right amount of time.
- The service should know more than 10 days before.
- The service should know less than 10 days before.
- The service shouldn't know at all that they will be inspected.
- Not sure.

Why do you think this?

Q3. Do you agree that fostering services which are very good should be inspected less often than the ones that aren't so good?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure.

Why do you think this?

Q4. Should inspectors judge fostering services on:

- how well children progress Yes No Not sure
- how good their service is Yes No Not sure
- how safe children are Yes No Not sure
- how well the service is managed? Yes No Not sure

Is there anything else that inspectors should judge the fostering service on?

Q5. Do you have any other comments about how we should inspect fostering services?

Q6. Have you been in foster care, either now or in the past?

Yes No

Q7. What do you think about the questions you have answered?

- They were easy to understand and complete.
- I didn't understand what they were about.
- Some bits were easier to follow than others.

Thank you for completing this form.

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.

If you print and fill in this form by hand, please post it to:

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