

# Sector updates

RM Forum 21.10.24

# Lots to think about going forward.....

- Guidance for young people who are questioning their gender identity is to be re reviewed. This is at the request of the incoming government/ minister. No clear timescale at present.
- You may wish to read the report from Dame Christine Gilbert in respect of the response of the regulator to the death of Ruth Perry and the follow-on Ofsted response to the recommendations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-big-listen-supporting-documents/ofsteds-response-to-the-independent-learning-review-by-dame-christine-gilbert>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66ce24201aaf41b21139cf94/Independent\\_learning\\_review\\_for\\_Ofsted\\_by\\_Dame\\_Christine\\_Gilbert.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66ce24201aaf41b21139cf94/Independent_learning_review_for_Ofsted_by_Dame_Christine_Gilbert.pdf)

## - continued

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-big-listen-supporting-documents/findings-of-ofsteds-big-listen-public-consultation>
- These three reports give an indication of direction of travel for the regulator
- The findings of the “Big Listen” have been published and some recommendations have already been acted upon for education.
- Single/double word grades have been removed for mainstream schools. We will have an interim position this year in respect of review / grade of the four key areas for education. First 15 reports published October 2024
- Look out for a consultation which will shape the way forward for the new inspection format / framework from September 2025 onwards in terms of a report card format for education
- Annual safeguarding mandatory review / inspection to be defined.

# ....continued

- Some themes re. the regulator were similar from both education and social care professionals in the “Big Listen”. Other sources of research do not align in the same way.
- Noted that within children’s social care an unintended consequence of some of the responses and attitudes of inspectors has been a reluctance to accept children with the greatest needs.
- The report card format will include feedback from children and young people about what they value- being safe , happy , education etc.
- There is also likely to be a view on how homes create stability and avoid unplanned endings.
- Consultations will be carried out.

## ....continued

- Ofsted said that local authorities and social care providers would follow suit and be assessed using a similar tool to a report card, rather than receive an outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate rating for overall effectiveness following a full inspection.
- However, it said no date had been set as yet for introducing the reform in social care.
- “We’re all travelling in the same direction but we might need to go at a different pace,” said Yvette Stanley, Ofsted’s national director for social care.

# Social Care- advice body re. change

- <https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/news/ofsted-names-social-care-and-early-years-leaders-to-advise-on-inspection-reform>
- Yvette Stanley
- Jo Fisher (ADCS) Herts
- Colum Conway – SW England
- Claire Dorer – NASS
- Harvey Gallagher – NAFP
- Mark Kerr- CHA

# Supported accommodation

- [Inspections of supported accommodation: information for supported lodgings hosts – Ofsted: social care \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2015/05/inspections-of-supported-accommodation-information-for-supported-lodgings-hosts/)
- Inspections will lead to 1 of 3 outcomes:
  1. Consistently strong service delivery leads to typically positive experiences and progress for children. Where improvements are needed, leaders and managers take timely and effective action. The next inspection will be within approximately 3 years.
  2. Inconsistent quality of service delivery adversely affects children's experiences and limits their progress. Leaders and managers must make improvements. The next inspection will be within approximately 18 months.
  3. Serious or widespread weaknesses lead to significant concerns about the experiences and progress of children. Leaders and managers must take urgent action to address failings. The next inspection will be within approximately 6 months.

# Supported accommodation.....

- There is some evidence that providers in this sector have found the new regulatory framework and requirements a challenge.
- One of the biggest is the differentiation between care and support. Providers have to recognise how this differentiation is made so that they do de facto end of running an unregistered children's home as a young person's needs become apparent as being predominantly care centred.
- This adds to the pressure on placing young people with so called complex or co- occurring needs if supported accommodation is not appropriate

# “Good experiences.....” n.b. these are highlights only

- <https://socialcareinspection.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/14/providing-good-experiences-for-children-with-complex-needs/>

The research revealed a challenging national picture:

- most local authorities (more than 9 out of 10) struggle to find homes for children with complex needs
- children sometimes wait years for a suitable placement
- many children with complex needs are living alone in homes, which risks leaving them isolated and vulnerable.

# “Good experiences....”

- We know that some homes still hesitate to accept referrals for children with complex needs because they are concerned about how it might affect their Ofsted inspection outcomes. As we’ve said before, there is no need to worry about this. The inspection grades among homes that care for children with complex needs are no lower than among all homes generally
- But we know the perception persists and could limit the number of homes available for the children who absolutely need residential care. So, we continue trying to address homes’ concerns and reassure you that accepting children with complex needs will not affect your inspection outcome. Indeed, we mostly see children with wide-ranging needs supported well in caring homes
- We know we have more to do to reassure commissioners and providers, and we will continue to work with the sector to manage these sensitivities

# What else?

- Full review of what inclusion looks like in schools with the Children's Society being asked to carry out a rapid review of the literature- possible consultation to follow.
- This will align with the ongoing review of the national curriculum .
- Recognised that SEND budgets are the most compromised / under pressure in local authorities- substantial overspends are common. The SEND plan is seeking to reduce the number of EHCPs but applications are still rising.

# What else?

- Post pandemic factors now being recognised as being influential in schools especially now as the so called “pandemic babies “ start education with issues arising (for a number)in delayed speech and language development , emotional development , capacity to transition and behaviour responses.
- Something to stay aware of.

# Other links

- <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-childrens-commissioners-school-survey-2024/>

This will feed into Ofsted reform package.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/lack-of-urgency-in-tracing-thousands-of-children-missing-from-education-and-unknown-to-authorities/>

# Other links continued....

- [Disabled children and young people's experiences of social work services: a thematic review](#)
- [Reunited families](#)
- [Strip searching of children in England and Wales](#)

Sextortion articles and guide in the Guardian:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/21/amid-rise-in-financial-sextortion-childline-is-helping-teenagers-fight-back>
- [Supporting young people returning home from care – counting the costs](#)



## Be aware.....

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- A lot heading our way over the next eighteen months.
- Lots of consultations to be opened.
- We will keep you in touch with what is happening.  
Thank you Chris

