



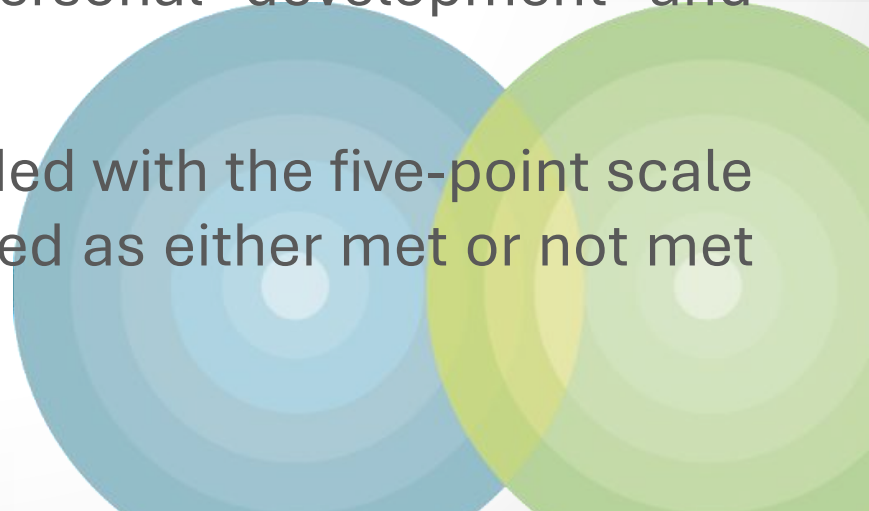
# Sector updates

Chris Freestone.

February 2025

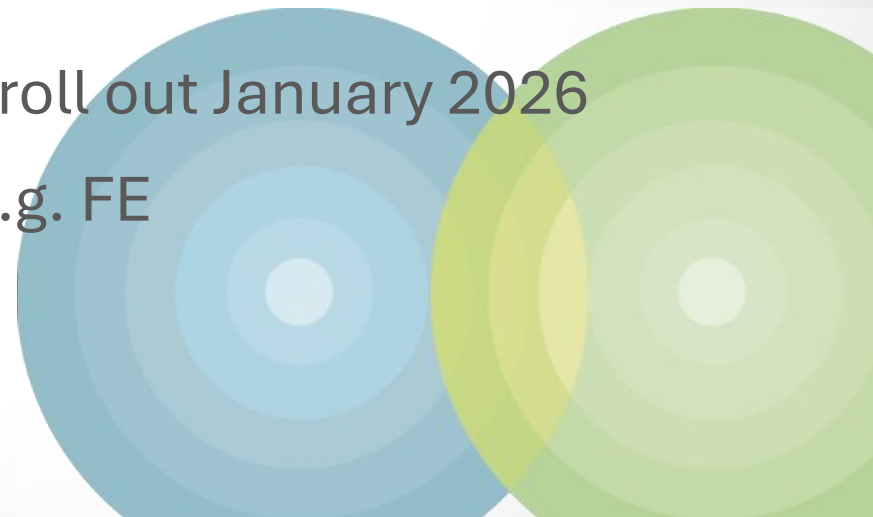
# Sector updates

- Launch of consultation re. proposed changes to Ofsted inspection processes.
- Consultation from 3.2.25 to 28.4.25
- Initial reaction- a lot of criticism in terms of a “rehash” of the previous grading.
- Areas rated would include leadership and governance, curriculum, developing teaching, achievement, behaviour and attitudes, attendance, personal development and well-being, and inclusion.
- Safeguarding would not be graded with the five-point scale and instead it would be assessed as either met or not met under the plans.



# Sector updates

- Evaluation areas for early years providers would include aspects such as behaviour, attitudes and establishing routine. The grade will be accompanied by short summaries of inspectors' findings in more detail. An overall effectiveness grade will not be awarded.
- Revised processes for inspecting / monitoring schools which are weak / weaker than they should be.
- Pilots to continue for autumn 1 with roll out from November 2025- mainstream.
- ITE Initial teacher education – roll out January 2026
- Other providers in sequence e.g. FE
- Social care 2026
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# New format example

## Our evaluation of this provider

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
	Achievement ⌵	Leadership and governance ⌵	Attendance ⌵	
		Curriculum ⌵	Behaviour and attitudes ⌵	
		Developing teaching ⌵	Inclusion ⌵	
		Personal development and well-being ⌵		
		Sixth form ⌵		

## Safeguarding evaluation

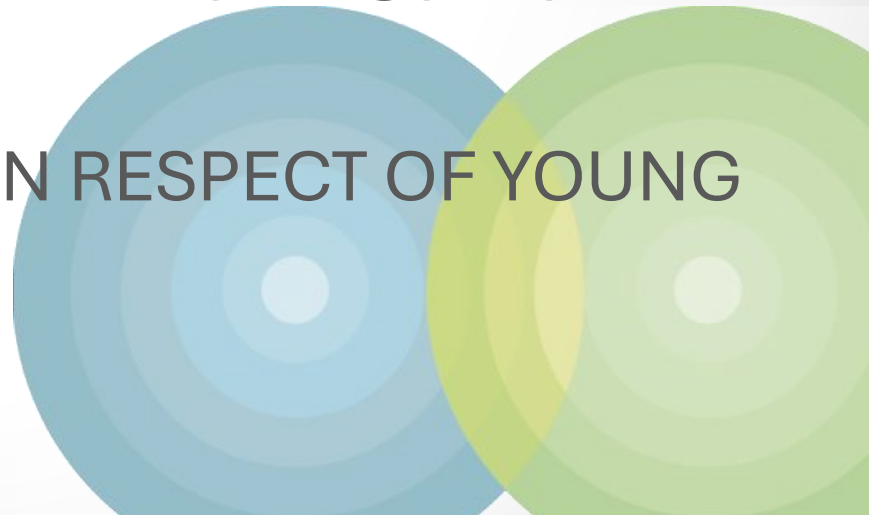
Safeguarding

Met

⌵ Show

# Sector updates

- Ofsted focus education :
- Spring 2 and summer term looking at the role of blended / hybrid timetables especially for young people with SEND. Looking at opportunities for learning , progress and outcomes
- Numbers of young people being home educated-again with a focus on numbers of young people with SEND.
- YOU MAY BE CONTACTED IN RESPECT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE HOME.



# Children / well being and schools' bill

- *Child protection*
- Require education and childcare providers to be included in an area's safeguarding arrangements
- Require local authorities to establish multi-agency child protection staffed by people from education, social work, health and the police
- Allow for the creation of a single unique identifier for children and introduce new duties around data sharing



## Children / well being and schools' bill

- *Care leavers*
- Require all local authorities to offer Staying Close support to care leavers where deemed necessary and to include information on procedures to ensure a supportive transition to independent living in their published local offer for care leavers



# Children / well being and schools' bill

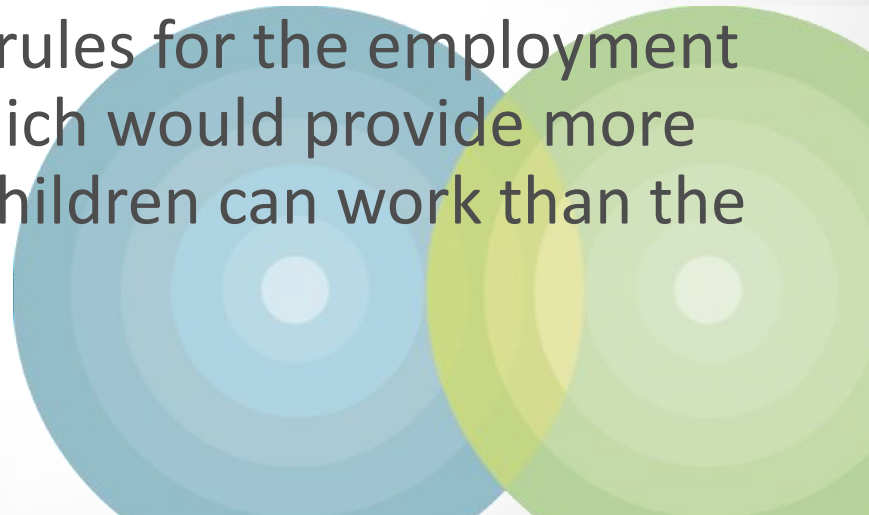
- *Accommodation for looked after children*
- Allow the Secretary of State to direct local authorities to establish regional co-operation arrangements for planning and commissioning homes for looked after children
- Provide a statutory framework for children to be deprived of their liberty in accommodation other than a secure children's home
- Increase Ofsted oversight of organisations that operate multiple children's homes or independent fostering agencies and allow Ofsted to fine unregistered children's homes
- Introduce a financial oversight scheme for designated independent fostering agencies and providers of children's homes
- Allow the Secretary of State to cap the profits of providers of children's homes and independent fostering agencies

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# Children / well being and schools' bill

- *Children's social care workers*
- Allow the Secretary of State to make regulations on the use of agency workers in children's social care
- Extend legislation against ill-treatment or willful neglect to children aged 16 and 17 in certain care and detention settings
- *Employment of children*
- Introduce a new single set of rules for the employment of children across England which would provide more flexibility in the hours when children can work than the existing rules



# Children / well being and schools' bill

- *Children not in school*
- Introduce a local authority consent mechanism for the withdrawal of certain children from school, including those at special schools
- Introduce a requirement for local authorities to maintain a register of children not in school, with duties for parents and related requirements for school attendance orders to be issued in some cases



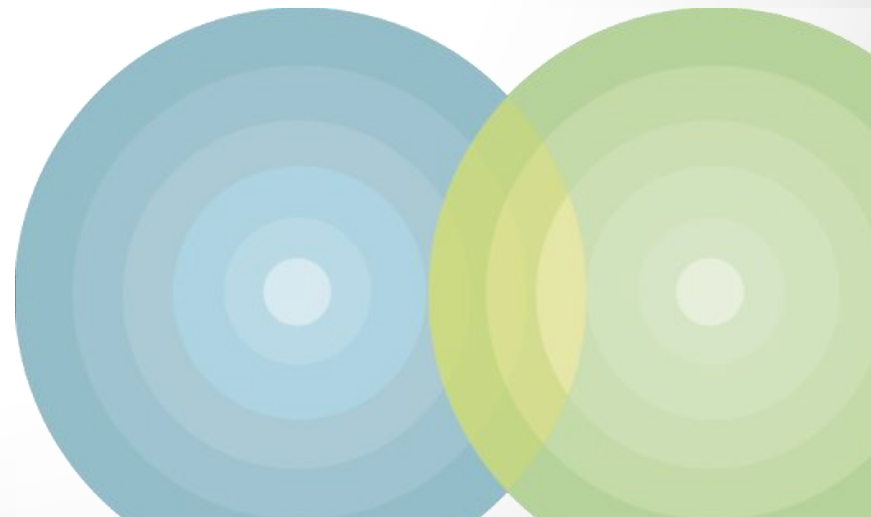
## Children / well being and schools' bill

- *Independent educational institutions*
- Expand the regulation of independent educational institutions that provide all or most of a child's education
- Strengthen Ofsted's powers to investigate unregistered, and therefore illegal, independent schools
- Amend Ofsted's requirements to report on independent school inspectorates, and clarify information sharing powers

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## Children / well being and schools' bill

- <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2025/january/childrens-wellbeing-and-schools-bill-call-for-evidence/>



# Children / well being and schools' bill

- **Flexi-schooled pupils will need to be on council registers.**  
The bill will create a duty on councils to create and maintain registers of children not in school, and to support children on those registers if councils seek that support.
- It will become an offence for parents to withdraw children subject to school attendance orders, and those who breach an order can be prosecuted again if they continue to breach it without councils having to begin the process again.
- This will also require councils to “consider the home and other learning environments when deciding whether education is suitable” for children subject to child protection processes.
- Local authorities will be able to “request to see the child in their home”. Where this is refused, they can issue an attendance order.



## Children / well being and schools' bill

- **New legal definition of full-time education**
- The bill sets out for the first time a legal definition of full-time education, which has been a grey area in the past.
- A full-time education will now be defined as one where a child “could be expected to receive all or a majority of their education at the institution”.



# Thinking ahead

- Using AI?
  - Policy?
  - GDPR and privacy statements?
  - Not tested in law yet in respect of records etc?
  - Proof reading of docs generated using AI?
  - Consent to use?



# Sector updates

- Mandatory reporting now back in the new Criminal Justice Bill- with more focus and aligned to a criminal charge if appropriate.
- Cuckooing to be made a criminal act
- Child exploitation to be made a criminal act
- ( to be in the crime and policing bill )





# Sector updates

- Any thoughts or queries?

Thank you- Chris

