



updates

Chris Freestone November 2023

updates

- Covid 19.
- General plateau , slight drop in numbers.
- Impact re. low number related to vaccine uptake in the spring and waning of community immunity.
- Flu/C19 vaccination / boosters ongoing
- Measles data going up
- New outbreaks of norovirus in the SW



Covid 19

- Interactive map (post codes) back in place
- NHS/ONS surveillance data tracking back in place for C19 and 'flu



Updates

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-202223-education-childrens-services-and-skills/the-annual-report-of-his-majestys-chief-inspector-of-education-childrens-services-and-skills-202223>
- Final one from Amanda Spielman
- Overall annual review of Ofsted's function and work.
- Highlights what is perceived as the need for change (?) which can only be facilitated with legislation- commented that this is seen as a defensive stance



Ilacs and care leavers.....

“This year, we added a new and distinct judgement into our ILACS looking at the experience and progress of care leavers. Getting the support right for young people as they leave care is of critical importance to their future lives. So far (and with only 26 authorities inspected), the experience of care leavers is lagging slightly behind that of children in care.”

FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT

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Out of sight.....

“At the most serious end of absenteeism are the children who drop completely from sight of the system. There are thousands of these children. This remains one of our biggest concerns and one that I have raised in every one of my annual reports.”

Follow up in terms of alternative provision use, illegals schools and absence as a point of risk and vulnerability

FOCUS- USE OF ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – DO TEAMS KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE PROVISION?



Inspection outcomes for children's homes receiving first full inspection this year

- This year, 410 children's homes received a first full inspection. The majority of these (74%) were judged good or outstanding. A further 19% were judged requires improvement to be good, and the remaining 7% were judged inadequate. This was similar to previous years.
- We reviewed all children's homes judged inadequate at their first inspection to see if registration decision-making can be improved and to gather insights into sector challenges. The main reasons for children's homes being rated inadequate at first inspection were:
 - failures by leadership to oversee and monitor homes to make sure that they are developing and delivering high-quality, safe care for children
 - staff who do not have the skills, experience or knowledge to effectively support and safeguard children
 - poor assessment and management of risk.
- These reasons were common across all regions and provider group sizes, including standalone children's homes.



State of the nation

- At year end, there were around 4,000 social care providers across a variety of services, including residential care, and fostering and adoption services. Most are children's homes (3,290).
- This year, there was an 11% increase in the number of children's homes, continuing a year-on-year increase since 2015. Last year, we introduced multi-building registration of children's homes. This means that a provider can apply to register a single home where care and accommodation are provided in more than one building. So far, we have received 11 applications for multi-building children's homes, six of which have been approved. Of the remainder, two withdrew their application and three are still in progress.
- This year, we carried out around 3,120 full inspections of children's homes. Of these, 2,410 resulted in one or more requirements. The two most common reasons for requirements were leadership and management (around 1,140) and protection of children (around 1,050).



Possible future development/focus

- Ownership of social care provision
- In August 2023, the 10 largest providers owned 30% of private children's homes and 31% of private children's homes places (2,760 places). This was similar to previous years. These 10 providers owned from 37 to 210 homes, and from 120 to 680 places.
- Because of the risks associated with this concentration of ownership, the DfE intends to implement a financial oversight scheme. We are working with them on this.
- More information on providers of children's homes is available in a separate Ofsted report



Incident requiring police involvement*	10,200	26	2,360
Allegation of abuse against the home or a person working there~	4,200	11	1,630
Serious illness or accident*	1,840	5	440
Child protection inquiry outcome*	1,750	4	420
Serious concerns over a missing child	1,270	3	570
Serious complaint about a carer or member of staff*	1,010	3	240
Involvement or suspected involvement in sexual exploitation*	840	2	450
Child protection inquiry instigated*	730	2	470

Serious incident of self-harm by a child	340	1	220
Section 35 referral of an adult or provision of information to DBS*	180	<0.5	140
Child has been a perpetrator/victim of serious assault	140	<0.5	110
Outbreak of infectious disease*	130	<0.5	71
Death of a child*	37	<0.5	30

Other incident
relating to a child
that the registered
person considered
to be serious~

1660

42

2850

New Ofsted complaints procedure

- The changes will come into effect from January and April next year.
- **Enhanced on-site professional dialogue**
- Ofsted said it would provide all inspectors with guidance on “developing and formalising” enhanced professional dialogue during inspections.
- Under the change, inspectors will be asked to check with headteachers at specific stages of the visit “where appropriate”, including at end-of-day meetings and the final feedback session.
- It said this would help inspectors “address any queries, misconceptions or concerns as soon as possible”.
- It added that responses to the proposal were “very positive”, with 81 per cent of school respondents agreeing it should enhance professional dialogue during visits.
- **This will be rolled out from January.**



Cont'd

- **Contacting Ofsted the day after inspection**
- Schools will be given an opportunity to call Ofsted the day after the end of an inspection visit if they have “unresolved issues”.
- Previously the watchdog said this may include raising informal concerns about the process and its “likely outcome”, or queries about what happens next.
- Ofsted said that “noting the comments received and wanting providers to be confident in contacting us”, it believed the call should be with an experienced inspector who is independent of the inspection in question.
- “Where appropriate, this inspector may contact the lead inspector to help understand the context of any issues raised”.
- Of the schools who responded, 86 per cent agreed with the proposal.
- **It will also come into effect in January.**



Cont'd

- **New arrangements for finalising reports**
- This change will see a new first step in the complaints process, with two routes, introduced.
- Heads can either highlight “minor points of clarity or factual accuracy”, which will be considered “promptly” before the report is finalised.
- Or they can submit a formal complaint.
- Three-quarters (76 per cent) of schools agreed with this change.
- **It will come into effect from April- with new policy / process documents yet to be published.**



Cont'd

- **Ofsted internal review process scrapped**
- The watchdog will scrap internal reviews of how it handles complaints, which currently form step three of its process.
- Under the new scheme, schools concerned their complaint did not correctly follow the right process will be able to go directly to the Independent Complaints Adjudication Service for Ofsted (ICASO).
- Ofsted will also introduce periodic reviews of how it handles complaints.
- NOTE:- some noted that ICASO's role was to "review whether the complaints process was carried out properly, not to review the inspection itself".
- **It will also come into effect from April.**



Links

- HMCI annual report
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-202223-education-childrens-services-and-skills/the-annual-report-of-his-majestys-chief-inspector-of-education-childrens-services-and-skills-202223>
- <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/think-tank-sets-out-blueprint-for-labours-ofsted-plans/>



Guidance to support trans young people

- <https://cass.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Cass-Review-Interim-Report-Final-Web-Accessible.pdf>
- No date as yet.
- The Cass report as above may give a steer (?)
- Recognised that there is a muddled situation including delays around setting up the regional GIDs centres.



Other updates

- be aware of issues related to hate crime and hate speech – at the current time schools are dealing with these issues.
- Be aware of the potential cross over re. Prevent
- Schools are using pastoral , PSHE , tutor time etc to give opportunities for balanced discussion
- DfE have given guidance to schools re student non attendance in order to join a protest march. Schools are to take a firm view within their attendance policies. From a safeguarding perspective think –
- ABSENCE AND ITS LINK TO RISK AND VULNERABILITY.
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Any inspection or other feedback ?

- Thoughts / reflections?

