

# Inspection Top Tips

Independent Person

March 2026



# Children's Homes Regulations



(1) The registered provider must appoint, at the registered provider's expense, a person ("the independent person") to visit and report on the children's home carried on by the registered provider.



# Children's Homes Guide

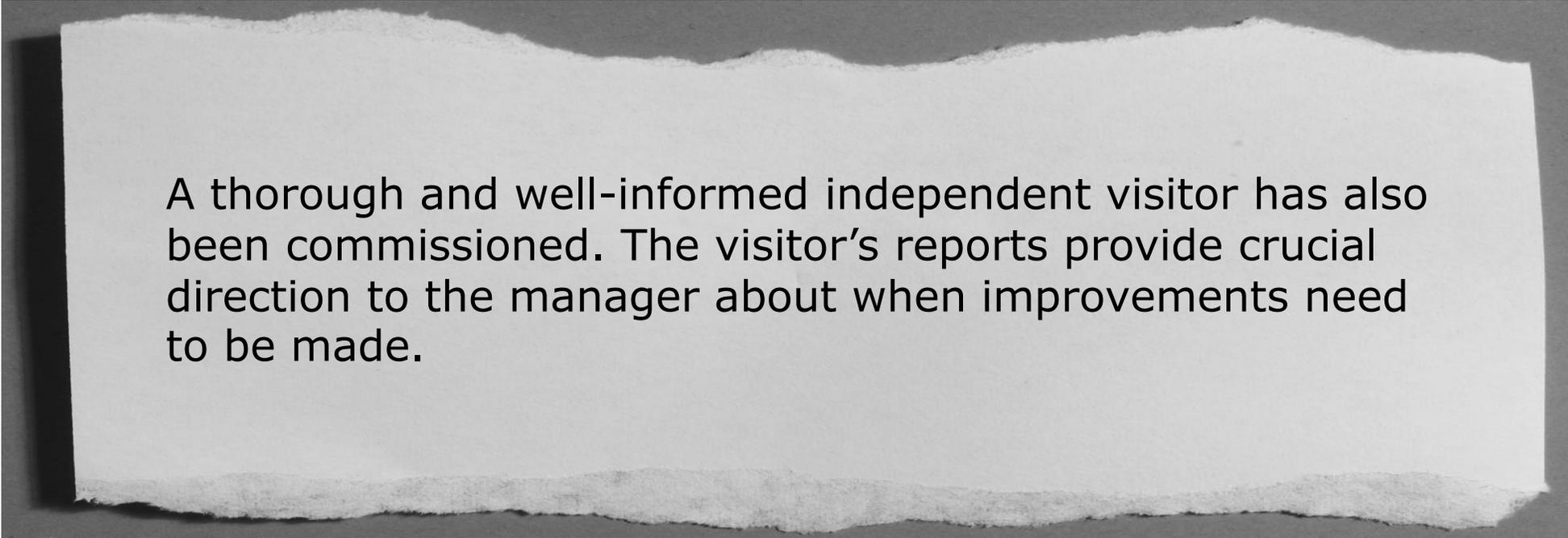
**15.6** The registered person must appoint the independent person and is ultimately responsible for making sure that an appointment does not give rise to a conflict of interest that would, or would appear to, compromise the ability of that person to reach a rigorous and impartial judgement of the quality of that home's care.



# Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- Regulation 44 requires that an independent person visits the children's home at least once a month and that this visit may be unannounced. The regulation also requires that the independent person must write a report and provide a copy to: HMCI; the local authority for the area in which the home is located, on request; the placing authorities of children; the registered provider and, if applicable, the registered manager; the responsible individual (if one is nominated).
- We therefore require that the independent person or provider sends the report for HMCI to us before the end of the month that follows the month in which the visit took place. This requirement still applies when there are no children living in the home.
- It is the responsibility of the independent person to submit the report to HMCI.
- Providers should return the report to the independent person once they have commented on the report and recommendations. The independent person can then decide if they will make any changes to the report to reflect the comments of the provider. The independent person will then send the report to HMCI, through the email address detailed below.
- No alterations or amendments should be made to the report by anyone else, other than the provider's response to the recommendations and summary of the report.

## Ofsted comment from inspection – Good

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A thorough and well-informed independent visitor has also been commissioned. The visitor's reports provide crucial direction to the manager about when improvements need to be made.

# Top Tips...

1. **Select someone with relevant experience** in safeguarding, residential childcare, or regulation who also understands the expectations of Ofsted.
2. **They must be genuinely independent from the home's management structure** but still knowledgeable enough to provide meaningful scrutiny.
3. **Providers should ensure the Independent Person has open access to records, staff, and young people.**
4. **Rather than seeing the visit as a compliance exercise, use the feedback to strengthen practice and identify trends.** This helps providers improve outcomes before they become regulatory concerns.
5. **Integrate the information in Reg 44 reports into governance.** Using the reports strategically helps providers demonstrate good governance and continuous improvement.



# Regulation 44 training...

Our specialist training for regulation 44 visitors is popular and challenging. We support new visitors to understand the role, the application of regulations, the process of planning and undertaking visits and the emphasis on seeing the home from the young person's point of view. The courses also deal with the challenges of being an independent visitor, the value of being a critical friend to leaders and managers and the craft of creating a clear, developmental and challenging report for the home.

The course is adaptable to Standard 3 visits to residential special schools and is also suitable to experienced visitors who have perhaps completed training previously, as we adapt the materials and discussions to each group of participants.

## Next dates:

Our next course is being delivered via zoom on  
**14th, 21st, 28th May & 4th, 11th 18th June 2026, running 10am-12pm.**

Costing £160+vat (**£120+vat for members**).

You can book on to this bitesize using the link below:

[Regulation 44 support - Dialogue](#)

