

Update from Ofsted on the initial evaluation of the first 11 Single Inspection Framework inspections, plus information on the *Integrated Inspections* programme that will start in April 2015.

Initial evaluation

Five separate inspection programmes (Safeguarding; looked after children; contact referral and assessment; fostering and adoption) have been replaced by the Single Inspection Framework (SIF), the SIF covers the whole journey of the child and therefore there is a much stronger focus on what happens in frontline practice.

Ofsted remains confident that introducing a judgment of *Requires Improvement* (RI) is the right thing to do, they recognise, that this finding can cause subsequent difficulties for a local authority. Ofsted is exploring how reports can more clearly reflect the closeness of the overall judgement to the adjacent grade up or down.

The framework and grade descriptors will not be changed and will last until November 2016.

How time is deployed by inspection teams is being re-evaluated as it is currently a 50/50 split between child protection and children looked after. Ofsted believe that inspectors need to spend more time looking at children looked after and care leavers than is profiled at present.

Some work around looked after children that is currently carried out in Week 3 may be brought forward / re-timetabled into Week 1 as the current timetabling is causing some difficulties.

There are now inspection basics that will always be reported on in every inspection. These can be found at paragraph 157 of the [inspection handbook](#). These include thresholds, younger and older children, neglect, domestic violence, parents with mental health and substance misuse issues, length of plans, serious incident notifications and thresholds for them, children missing from home/education or care. Ofsted has been clear that not everything in the framework will be reported on.

Ofsted visits at least two children placed out of area and placed some distance from their home local authority as part of the single inspection. These visits are undertaken by regulatory inspectors.

The adoption scorecard will be looked at but the data in itself cannot limit the judgment on adoption.

The details of the education provision for looked after children may not be in an electronic system, but Ofsted want to know how the local authority monitors the progress of its children looked after globally and assures itself of the appropriateness of education and how it is aware of any issues.

Annex A has been amended as a result of feedback although Ofsted recognises it will still be a challenge. A gap in any data is not automatically limiting.

Ofsted remains committed to conducting their normal review after one year of an inspection framework.

The programming of inspections is still a mix of some good LAs and some that have been inadequate. All local authorities will be inspected over the three year period (November 2013 – November 2016).

The *Integrated Inspections* that start in April 2015

Between April 2015 and November 2016 there will be up to 25 of the new integrated inspections that will bring the Ofsted Single Inspection Framework together with the inspection work of CQC, HMI Constabulary, and in some cases HMI Probation and HMI Prisons. It is proposed that CQC and HMIC will move to a four grade system (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate), but using their

own grade criteria that will be consulted on from mid-June 2014. HMI Probation and HMI Prisons will not attribute graded judgments and will instead provide a narrative judgment on strengths and weaknesses.

The 25 local authorities will be identified by three different criteria; where the individual inspectorates have concerns; where the local authority has previously been found to be inadequate; and a sample of local authorities that meet neither of the previous criteria so Ofsted can disseminate good practice and identify where agencies are working well together. Local authorities that have already been inspected under the SIF (unless they have been found to be inadequate) are unlikely to be included.

Consultation on the *Integrated Inspections Framework* will commence in mid-June and the first inspections will start in April 2015.

In late May, Ofsted will publish its report on the review of the 11 inspections which will include Professor Eileen Munro's recommendations, plus a paper setting out the lessons from all the inspectorate's individual inspections of agencies contribution to child safeguarding and looked after children.