Revised regulation and inspection

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Key messages

From September 2012 regulation will:

- minimise risks to children so that they thrive in a safe environment when in registered early years provision
- allow more autonomy to providers to manage their own service alongside robust registration arrangements and continued rigorous enforcement for those who cannot or will not comply with requirements

Key messages (2)

Inspection will:

- focus on children's progress
- consider the importance of a family's involvement with their child's provision
- judge how well provision is enabling early intervention to support children's identified needs
- assess whether children's personal and emotional needs are met through an effective key worker system

Agreed changes

By September 2012 we will:

- focus on safeguarding children through a robust registration system
- remove the routine imposing of conditions of registration to give providers more flexibility in how to run their provision
- give the responsibility for checking managers and deciding on their suitability to employers

Agreed changes (2)

- cease the routine interviewing of nominated persons when they change
- carry out inspections instead of investigations for the majority of occasions where information is shared with us suggesting non-compliance
- focus inspection on outcomes for children especially in relation to progress from their starting points

Consultation

- Runs from 9 January to 6 April
- Includes:
  - an on-line consultation questionnaire
  - seeking the views of parents through the Ofsted parents' panels, a short parents' survey and some parents' forums
  - pilot inspections of some early years settings
  - an evaluation conference, to include the pilot settings and their local authorities
  - other meetings and conferences

Aim of our proposals

- Keep children safe through a robust registration process and taking appropriate and proportionate enforcement action
- Allow registered providers more autonomy in managing their own services
- Raise the bar in inspection and reporting through focusing inspection on children's personal and emotional development and the progress children make in their learning
- Improve information for parents by carrying out full inspections where we receive concerns so that they receive a more holistic report on the quality of provision; and making inspection reports more user-friendly

Consultation questions

- Compliance with requirements – dealing with minor matters
- Inspection notice periods
- On-line self-evaluation
- Summary reports for small scale providers eg childminders
- Better use of electronic communication
- Inspection criteria for key judgements

Inspection judgements

- Outcomes for children
- Quality and standards of provision
  - the role of the practitioner in supporting children's learning and development
  - the effectiveness of care practices in helping children to feel emotionally secure and develop independence
- Effectiveness of leadership and management
- Overall effectiveness of the early years provision in meeting childrens' needs

Exercise and discussions

- Think about key consultation questions
- Identify issues
- To what extent do you agree?
- General discussion
- Any questions?