

October Monitoring Report of Children's Social Care (Coronavirus) (Modification of Children's Social Care) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020: Summary

Summary

Visits

Visits to Looked after Children

- 3,911 (99%) out of a planned 3,938 visits took place during the month of October.
- 27 (1%) visits were deferred.
- Of those visits that took place, 79% continued on a face-to-face basis while 20% took place remotely.

Registered Provider visits to children's homes

- 50 Monthly Monitoring Reports were submitted by Registered Providers of children's homes to RQIA. 46% of visits were conducted remotely.

Reviews

Looked After Reviews

- 66 1st Reviews for Looked After children were due to be completed this month. 8 reviews (12%) were held outside normal timescales. Some of these delays were COVID-related.
- 136 2nd Reviews for Looked After children were due to be completed this month. 28 of these reviews (21%) were held outside normal timescales. A number of these delays were COVID-related.

Care Leavers – Pathway Plan

- 113 Pathway Plans were due to be reviewed during the month. 35 of the plans (31%) were reviewed at intervals of more than 6 months during the month. The delays were for a number of reasons including COVID-related.

Adoption Reviews

- Three adoption reviews were not completed within normal timescales.

Secure Care

- All reviews were completed within normal timescales and arrangements.

Approvals

Foster care – children

- 9 children were placed in an emergency placement for a period between 24 hours and 14 days.
- 24 children were placed in an immediate placement for between 12 and 20 weeks.
- None of these children were placed with an approved prospective adopter or a registered childminder.

Foster Carers

- No fast track barred list checks were undertaken by AccessNI.
- No foster carers were approved on the basis of a fast track barred list check only.
- 69 foster carers did not receive their 12 monthly review this month.
- 262 foster care reviews were more than 3 months overdue. Some of these were COVID-related.

Representations / Complaints

- No representations / complaints were reported during October.

