

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

Visits

Visits to Looked after Children

- **4,030** (99.5%) out of a planned **4,049** visits took place during the month of November.
- **19** (0.5%) visits were deferred.
- Of those visits that took place, **82%** continued on a face-to-face basis while **17.5%** 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. 70% of visits were conducted remotely.

Reviews

Looked After Reviews

- **94** 1st Reviews for Looked After children were due to be completed this month. 12 reviews (13%) were held outside normal timescales. Some of these delays were COVID-related.
- **141** 2nd Reviews for Looked After children were due to be completed this month. **20** of these reviews (14%) were held outside normal timescales. A number of these delays were COVID-related.

Care Leavers – Pathway Plan

- **87** Pathway Plans were due to be reviewed during the month. **29** of the plans (33%) 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

- Two adoption reviews were not completed within normal timescales.

Secure Care

- One review was completed outside normal timescales.

Approvals

Foster care – children

- 7 children were placed in an emergency placement for a period between 24 hours and 14 days.
- 29 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.
- 63 foster carers did not receive their 12 monthly review this month.
- 195 foster care reviews were more than 3 months overdue. Some of these were COVID-related.

Representations / Complaints

- There were 2 instances of a response to a complainant being provided between 28 days and 2 months during November.