**Children’s Social Care**

**Consultation on proposals to extend modifications to children’s social care regulations**

**Period of consultation: from 8 April to 22 April 2021**

**Consultation Questions**

1. **Do you think that we should extend the existing temporary modifications to allow virtual contact/visits by social workers where a face to face visit is not possible, for up to a further six months, until 7 November 2021?**

**☐ Agree**

**☐ Disagree**

**Comments (maximum 250 words)**

1. **Do you think that we should extend the existing temporary modifications to allow virtual contact/visits by registered providers where a face to face visit is not possible, for up to a further six months, until 7 November 2021?**

**☐ Agree**

**☐ Disagree**

**Comments**

1. **Do you think that we should extend the existing temporary modifications to allow the time taken to undertake a review of a foster carer to be extended from 12 months to a maximum of 15 months, for up to a further six months, until 7 November 2021?**

**☐ Agree**

**☐ Disagree**

**Comments**

1. **Do you think that we should extend the existing temporary modifications to allow for an emergency placement of a child with an approved foster carer to be extended from 24 hours to 10 days, for up to a further six months, until 7 November 2021?**

**☐ Agree**

**☐ Disagree**

**Comments**

1. **Do you think that we should extend the existing temporary modifications to allow for an immediate placement of a child with a foster carer without approval by foster panel to be extended from 12 weeks to 16 weeks, for up to a further six months, until 7 November 2021?**

**☐ Agree**

**☐ Disagree**

**Comments**

**Equality/human rights questions**

# The equality questions asked on a consultation exercise are not the same questions on the Department’s Screening template but rather a set of 4 questions that, if answered, can help inform the completion of the Department's Screening template.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Q1** | Are the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document likely to have an adverse impact on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?  **☐ YES****☐ NO** If yes, please state the group or groups and provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated in the proposals. |
| **Q2** | Are you aware of any indication or evidence – qualitative or quantitative – that the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations?  **☐ YES****☐ NO** If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact. |
| **Q3** | Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations? **☐ YES****☐ NO** If yes, please give details as to how.  |
| **Q4** | Are there any aspects of this action where potential human rights violations may occur? |

**Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses**

For this consultation, we may publish all responses except for those where the respondent indicates that they are an individual acting in a private capacity (e.g. a member of the public). All responses from organisations and individuals responding in a professional capacity will be published. We will remove email addresses and telephone numbers from these responses; but apart from this, we will publish them in full. For more information about what we do with personal data please see our consultation privacy notice.

Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may also be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) (EU) 2016/679.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Department should receive a request for the information under the FOIA or EIR.

**Personal Information**

**About You:**

1. **Please provide your name:**

1. **What is your email address?**
2. **What HSC Trust area are you based in?**
3. **Are you responding as an individual, or as part of an organisation (please circle)?**

**Individual/HSC Trust/charity/political party/other organisation**

1. **Please indicate if you are content for your response to be published**

**☐ YES**

**☐ NO**

**If no, please explain**