

March 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

- 3,977 (98.6%) out of a planned 4,033 visits took place in March 2021.
- 56 (1.4%) visits were deferred.
- Of the planned visits, 56% continued on a face-to-face basis while 42.6% 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. 40 visits were conducted remotely.

Reviews

Looked After Reviews

- 68 1st Reviews for looked after children were due to be completed this month. 2 reviews (3%) were held outside normal timescales. Some of these delays were COVID-related.
- 132 2nd Reviews for looked after children were due to be completed this month. 22 of these reviews (17%) were held outside normal timescales. These delays were due to staff on sick leave or staff shortages.

Care Leavers – Pathway Plan

- 127 Pathway Plans were due to be reviewed during the month. 35 of the plans (28%) were reviewed at intervals of more than 6 months. The delays were for a number of reasons, some of which were COVID-related.

Adoption Reviews

- Two reviews took place between 3 and 6 months after a child was placed for adoption where an application for an adoption order had not yet been made. The delays are due to support issues.

Secure Care

- All reviews were completed within normal timescales and arrangements.

Approvals

Foster care – children

- 21 children were placed in an emergency placement for a period between 24 hours and 14 days.
- 39 children were placed in an immediate placement for between 12 and 20 weeks.

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.
- 27 foster carers did not receive their 12 monthly review that was due in March 2021.
- 157 foster care reviews were more than 3 months overdue. Some of these were COVID-related.

Representations / Complaints

- No representations / complaints were reported in March 2021.