

## **In-depth quality assurance review visits**

### **What are they and what is their purpose?**

The in-depth quality assurance review will involve a pre-arranged visit by Skills for Care to your organisation.

The purpose is to add a qualitative layer to the quality assurance information and data that we collect on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).

Through these visits we will learn from organisations how they are undertaking quality assurance – identifying good practice, learning from feedback and dealing with challenges.

The information gathered will inform national learning and key messages. These will be reported back to the sector and also to the DfE

The [child and family ASYE evaluation criteria](#) forms the basis of the in-depth review visits.

### **How will organisations be selected for an in-depth review visit?**

We have adopted a maximum variation sampling framework to identify which organisations we will visit over a twelve month period.

This type of research framework enables us to ensure we collect feedback from all types of ASYE employer. Choosing organisations that vary as much as possible along each of the criteria will allow us to investigate the particularities of each site as well as patterns that are shared across the variation.

Using the sampling framework, in-depth review visits will be conducted until we reach saturation point (i.e. we are not learning anything new from that group of employers). We estimate that this may be in the region of 20 visits per year. For further information on the research methodology go to the [Better Evaluation website](#).

### **Schedule for visits**

Year 1 - all of the sampled organisations will be visited between January-March 2019

Year 2 - to be confirmed

We will notify selected organisations individually of our intention to visit and negotiate a suitable date for all concerned. We will aim to give as much notice as possible.

### **What to expect**

The emphasis of the quality assurance and continuous improvement cycle is on shared learning and experience. Skills for Care will adopt a supportive approach as a critical friend.

In this spirit we will expect to have an open discussion with the relevant stakeholders i.e.:

- the principal social worker
- the ASYE lead
- representative supervisor(s)
- representative NQSW(s)

The discussion questions will focus on specified elements of the evaluation criteria. These will be planned by Skills for Care in advance and circulated in good time to enable you to prepare for the visit.

The key learning points from the visit will be jointly agreed and summarised on the template that will be used to identify the areas to be discussed and sent to you prior to the visit.

The purpose of this will be to support organisations in their identification and planning of next steps in their continuous improvement journey.

### **What happens to the information collected via the in-depth review visits?**

The individual reports will be confidential to the organisation.

Collated learning points from across the sector will inform national reporting and developments in national support arrangements.