

Regulation of
Health and Social
Care Services

Governance of Foster Care Services Thematic Inspection Programme

Quality Improvement Plan

About the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is an independent statutory authority established to promote safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services for the benefit of the health and welfare of the public.

HIQA's mandate to date extends across a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector services. Reporting to the Minister for Health and engaging with the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, HIQA has responsibility for the following:

- **Setting standards for health and social care services** — Developing person-centred standards and guidance, based on evidence and international best practice, for health and social care services in Ireland.
- **Regulating social care services** — The Chief Inspector within HIQA is responsible for registering and inspecting residential services for older people and people with a disability, and children's special care units.
- **Regulating health services** — Regulating medical exposure to ionising radiation.
- **Monitoring services** — Monitoring the safety and quality of health services and children's social services, and investigating as necessary serious concerns about the health and welfare of people who use these services.
- **Health technology assessment** — Evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of health programmes, policies, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic and surgical techniques, health promotion and protection activities, and providing advice to enable the best use of resources and the best outcomes for people who use our health service.
- **Health information** — Advising on the efficient and secure collection and sharing of health information, setting standards, evaluating information resources and publishing information on the delivery and performance of Ireland's health and social care services.
- **National Care Experience Programme** — Carrying out national service-user experience surveys across a range of health services, in conjunction with the Department of Health and the HSE.

Introduction

The aim of thematic inspections is to help drive quality improvements in specific aspects of care and support. These thematic programmes will focus primarily on the *National Standards for Foster Care* (2003). This Quality Improvement Plan is specifically designed for use in the thematic inspections of the governance of foster care services.

This template has been developed to support you in developing a plan for quality improvement. It should be used in conjunction with the self-assessment questionnaire for the governance of foster care services. Once your service has completed the self-assessment questionnaire, this plan provides an opportunity for the service to target areas for improvement under each of the standards. This quality improvement plan is not required to be submitted to HIQA. It should be used by the service to focus on what improvements are needed and how they will be progressed and monitored.

The quality improvement plan should be made available to an inspector upon request, as it will demonstrate initiatives being undertaken to ensure effective governance arrangements across the foster care service.

Service providers are encouraged to read the guidance document accompanying this thematic programme, as it will provide useful information on meeting the standards.

***Please Note:** This quality improvement plan is a template produced by the Director of Regulation. You are not required to use this template and are free to use an alternate tool or template to create a quality improvement plan. However, please ensure that your plan incorporates the main elements as set out in this template. In addition, you are not required to submit your quality improvement plan to HIQA unless specifically requested.

Quality Improvement Plan

Governance of Foster Care Services

Please outline your key achievements relevant to the governance of foster care services within the last year

Please outline where there is room for improvement under the governance of foster care services

Standard number * <input type="text"/>	Standards assessed as requiring a Quality Improvement Initiative *Please place the standard number requiring a Quality Improvement initiative into the box on the left
Area(s) identified as requiring improvement	
Priority level High/Medium/Low	
Actions to be taken	
Person responsible	
Resources needed	
Possible constraints	
Measures of success	
Timeframe	
Progress review date(s)	

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To be completed at the end of the Quality Improvement Plan cycle

Standards assessed as requiring improvement	Measures of success	Status (completed /in progress)	Progress notes

