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Our reviews are undertaken as part of RQIA's Three Year Review Programme 2015-2018. Read more about the areas we are reviewing by visiting our website or by clicking on this image.

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# Early Years Services



## Review of the HSC Trusts' Arrangements for the Registration and Inspection of Early Years Services

As part of RQIA's Three Year Review Programme 2015-18, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety commissioned RQIA to undertake a review of arrangements for the registration and inspection of early years services.

The review assessed the health and social care (HSC) trusts against the Regulation of Childminding and Day Care Services by HSC Trusts Minimum Standards (DHSSPS, 2012) to consider how effectively trusts implemented their requirements to register and inspect childcare providers.

RQIA also sought the views of and experiences of providers of childminding and day care services to inform the review.

**The review made 17 recommendations for improvement.**



## Methodology

- We met with providers from childminding and day care services, to obtain their views and experiences of registration and inspection. A total of 40 providers and 15 staff from voluntary sector organisations engaged in the process.
- The attendees included: independent childminders; voluntary, community and private sector providers delivering services under the Programme for Two Year Olds; after school clubs; crèches; and day nurseries.
- We considered information provided by the HSC Board and HSC trusts, through the completion of questionnaires.
- We met with staff and managers from the HSC Board and HSC trusts, including those directly involved in registration and inspection of early years services.
- Finally, we presented the findings from the review and the recommendations in a report published on RQIA's website, [www.rqia.org.uk](http://www.rqia.org.uk), in December 2015.

## Recommendations

RQIA's review team made 17 **recommendations for improvement** in the arrangements for registration and inspection of early years services.

These focused on:

- ◆ Enabling the HSC teams to operate as an effective regulator, by:
  - adopting a regional approach to identifying staff training needs, and seeking ways to deliver it
  - developing more robust enforcement arrangements and appeals mechanisms
  - developing formal guidance, training and support mechanisms for their early years panels
- ◆ Involving providers and the public in the processes, by:
  - ensuring inspection reports are shared with providers
  - identifying how inspections can be more person-centred
  - developing information in a more user friendly format
  - increasing involvement through the Personal and Public Involvement Standards
- ◆ Resolving issues in relation to consistency in HSC trusts' interpretation of the Minimum Standards for Childminding and Day Care for Children Under Age 12 (DHSSPS, 2012).