

Children's Homes Career Standards:

Focus group information sheet (professionals)

Research in Practice has been commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) to draft career standards for the children's homes workforce. You are being invited to contribute to this work by participating in online focus groups to review the draft standards. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important to understand why this consultation is being carried out and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information carefully. If you would like to take part in the online focus group, please use the expression of interest link at the bottom of the page.

Purpose of the consultation:	Research in Practice has been commissioned by the DfE to draft Career Standards for the children's homes workforce. This will follow the expert-led review of professional development for the children's homes workforce . The draft Career Standards intend to set clear expectations that improve quality and consistency in practice. As part of the final stage of the project, Research in Practice will be reviewing the draft Career Standards with a range of stakeholders through online focus groups.
Why have I been invited to participate?	You are invited to take part because you are a professional that works in, or closely with, the children's homes sector. You may be a practitioner who works directly with children and young people in children's homes, a Registered Manager, a Responsible Individual, or a representative from an awarding organisation. Participants can work in, or be connected to, any Ofsted registered children's home, including secure children's homes and residential special schools. The homes that participants work in, or are connected to, can be run by the local authority, a private provider or the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.
How can I take part?	If you would like to take part in the online focus groups, you can complete the expression of interest form. Expressions of interest will be screened and participants selected on the basis of role and children's home type. We will confirm your registration for the focus group as soon as possible. If you are successful, consent paperwork will be issued which must be completed and returned in advance of the focus group.
Do I have to take part?	No. You can decide whether or not to take part. You can answer some questions and leave others. Your job and role at work will not be affected whatever you decide. No identifying information will be used in reporting or shared outside of the project team.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?	Participants will have the opportunity to review key domains in the draft Career Standards, identify any gaps, issues or unintended consequences, provide feedback on clarity and accessibility, and ensure that the Career Standards reflect what good practice looks like for the children's homes workforce. This will help to ensure that the Career Standards reflect the views and experiences of those who have lived in, worked in, or worked with children's homes, and set clear expectations that improve quality and consistency in practice.
Will what I say in the consultation be confidential?	We will analyse key themes and issues from the focus groups and use this information to inform the draft Career Standards. Short quotations from your comments may also be used in the Career Standards or Research in Practice communications or events related to the Career Standards. We will remove identifiable information (e.g. names, job roles) and any other highly specific details. We will not share information which identifies you or another person without your permission, unless a) we think there is a risk of harm to you or someone else b) information shared suggests that a criminal or corrupt act, or serious professional misconduct has occurred. If this happened, we would need to tell someone who could help and we would discuss this with you first, unless it might put you or someone else at further risk of harm.
How will you keep my information safe?	We will record and transcribe the focus group to have an accurate record of what is said. This recording will be kept securely and only our project team will be able to access it. We will use the recording for note taking purposes only and delete it within 2 weeks of the focus group taking place. If you do not wish to be recorded but would like to take part, you can turn off your camera and microphone and make contributions via the chat box. The information you give us will be kept safe as our research follows the law on data protection. These laws are the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. All personal information like names and contact details and research data will be stored securely. It will be deleted 3 months after completion of the project. Our privacy notice is available here.
What if I change my mind?	If you change your mind, please contact us using any of the email addresses below. If you inform us within 2-weeks of the focus group, we

	will work with you to find and withdraw your information from the consultation where possible.
Who will see the end results of this consultation?	Anonymised information and findings from the consultation may be shared with the DfE and used in the finalised Career Standards, presentations/events and shared in other communications.

Project title:	Department for Education Children's Homes Career Standards
Consultation lead:	James Shutkever, Practice and Projects Lead jshutkever@ncb.org.uk
Consultation team:	• Mairi-Anne Macdonald, Deputy Director Development and Innovation MMacDonald@ncb.org.uk • James Shutkever, Practice and Projects Lead jshutkever@ncb.org.uk
Contact details:	National Children's Bureau, 23 Mentmore Terrace, Hackney, London, E8 3PN ask@researchinpractice.org.uk