

Responding to the publication of a new consultation on Ofsted's inspection of safeguarding services, Matt Dunkley, President of ADCS said:

*"We strongly welcome the thoughtful and thorough proposals offered by Ofsted for consultation, which reflect some helpful dialogue with the sector over the last year. The proposals have a good focus on effectiveness and outcomes in principle and it will be important to ensure this is maintained in practice, together with a clear relationship to sector-led improvement activity. We will be responding to the consultation in due course and will be particularly interested to explore the implications of unannounced inspections, the details of direct observation of practice, the examination of effective partnership working, and how these can be implemented in such a way as to reduce the current bureaucratic burdens of inspection on local authorities."*

*Notes to editors:*

- 1) The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) is the professional leadership association for Directors of Children's Services and their senior management teams.
- 2) Ofsted today published a consultation on revised arrangements for inspecting safeguarding and looked after children's services in local authorities.