

# Supported Accommodation Sector Awareness and Provider Preparedness

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## Local Authority workshop

Manchester April 24th and London April 26th



# Background

The National Children's Bureau ran two conferences in Manchester and London at the end of April to prepare local authority commissioners and providers of supported accommodation for registration with Ofsted under the new regime.

Both local authority commissioners and the provider market had the opportunity to learn about the new regulations, registration process, and provider preparedness programme directly from the Department for Education, Ofsted and NCB.

We have identified some key themes from the local authority workshop. These themes set out ideas and aspirations for how local authorities would like to work with supported accommodation providers under the new regulations.





# Key themes



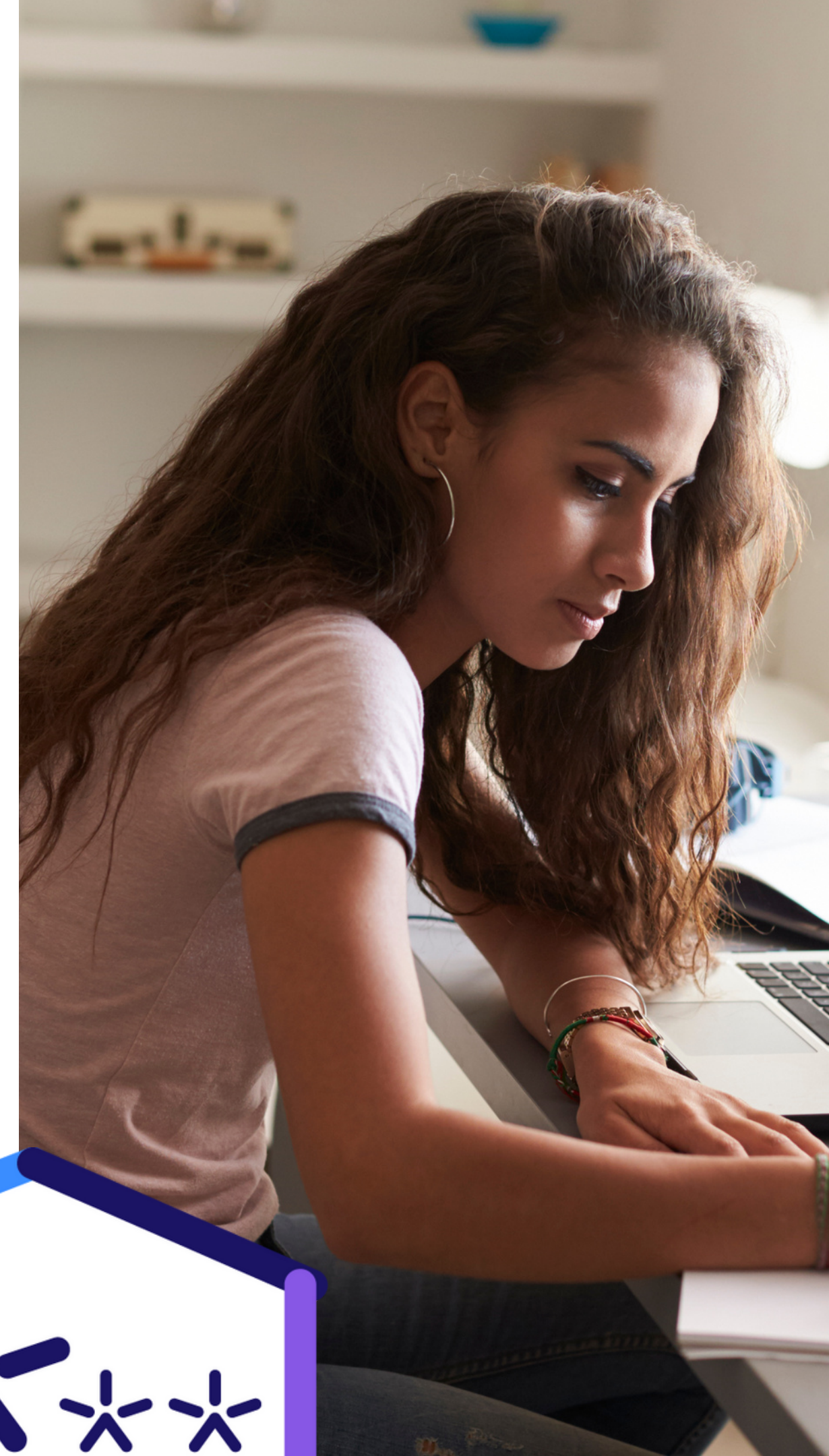


# Placement stability

Local authority representatives recognised that the supported accommodation market will benefit from regulation and that the new regime offers opportunities for positive change in terms of providing consistency and standardising support.

Many local authority representatives reflected that parallel placement planning is an important priority as this ensures stability for young people.

Some attendees raised concerns about their ability to parallel plan for young people due to uncertainty about the sufficiency of supported accommodation placements in future and the risk that providers may exit the market as a result of regulation.





# Information sharing and effective planning

Local authority representatives discussed how they could ensure a clear understanding of supported accommodation provision in their area and alleviate concerns about sufficiency. Some of their ideas were:

- Information sharing with Ofsted to learn when providers have registered successfully or the outcomes of fitness to practice interviews.
- Placement mapping to better understand the sufficiency of providers registered under the new regime, as well as their capacity to support young people with higher or more complex needs.
- Effective planning during the registration period to identify which providers intend to register under the new regime and any areas of the quality standards that providers may need support to meet.
- Use of forums and 'communities of practice' to ensure that providers are aware of support on offer and enable local authorities to share ideas and planning.





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# Quality assurance

## What is quality assurance?

Quality assurance is how local authorities monitor and ensure the quality of the services they commission in their area, including supported accommodation.

It is an important process that ensures each service is meeting local authority requirements and that this is consistent across all commissioned services.



**Local authority representatives shared their current quality assurance processes and reflected on what was working well and what could be improved.**

The difference in local authority approaches to quality assurance was predominantly based on capacity of the local authority and the number of providers in the local area.

Some local authorities felt their existing quality assurance processes were sufficient, others planned to amend these to ensure they met with the new Ofsted regulations.

## Attendees discussed their priorities in quality assurance processes:



- Assessing how rigorous their quality assurance processes were and how they compare to the new quality standards.
- Determining which areas within supported accommodation provision to prioritise, e.g., care plans, site visits, training and supervision, or recruitment.
- Capturing the voice of young people who live in the setting, as well as social workers and social care staff who work with the providers on a day-to-day basis.



# Supporting providers

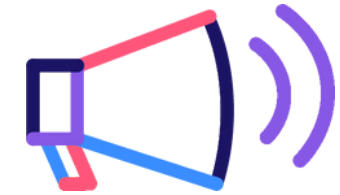
Attendees discussed how providers should be able to access support from the local authority and what this should look like.



Encouraging providers to register early and ahead of the window closing for existing providers in October, in case there are challenges encountered.



Supporting providers to meet the business and administrative requirements of the new regulations.



Supporting providers to ensure the voice of young people is represented in their service, for example in a young person's guide.



Ensuring each provider is aware of support being offered.

Some ideas