



Children Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 31

PART 2

CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN ENGLAND

Inspections of children's services

20 Joint area reviews

- (1) Any two or more of the persons and bodies to which this section applies must, at the request of the Secretary of State—
 - (a) conduct, in accordance with a timetable drawn up by them and approved by the Secretary of State, a review of children's services provided in—
 - (i) the area of every [^{F1}local authority] in England;
 - (ii) the areas of such [^{F2}local authorities] in England as may be specified in the request;
 - (b) conduct a review of such children's services provided in the area of such [^{F1}local authority] in England as may be specified in the request.
- (2) Any two or more of the persons and bodies to which this section applies may conduct a review of any children's services provided in the area of a particular [^{F1}local authority] in England.
- (3) The purpose of a review under this section is to evaluate the extent to which, taken together, the children's services being reviewed improve the well-being of children and relevant young persons (and in particular to evaluate how those services work together to improve their well-being).
- (4) The persons and bodies to which this section applies are—
 - (a) the Chief Inspector of Schools;
 - (b) ^{F3}
 - (c) ^{F3}
 - [^{F4}(d) the Care Quality Commission;]

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Children Act 2004, Section 20. (See end of Document for details)*

- ^{F5}(e)
 - (f) the chief inspector of constabulary;
 - [^{F6}(g) Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Probation for England and Wales]
 - ^{F7}(h)
 - (i) the Chief Inspector of Prisons.
- (5) Reviews under this section are to be conducted in accordance with arrangements made by the Chief Inspector of Schools.
- (6) Before making arrangements for the purposes of reviews under this section the Chief Inspector of Schools must consult such of the other persons and bodies to which this section applies as he considers appropriate.
- (7) The annual report of the Chief Inspector of Schools required by [^{F8}subsection (1) of section 121 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006] to be made to the Secretary of State must include an account of reviews under this section; and the power conferred by [^{F9}subsection (3)] of that section to make other reports to the Secretary of State includes a power to make reports about such reviews.
- (8) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of reviews under this section and in particular provision—
- (a) requiring or facilitating the sharing or production of information for the purposes of a review under this section (including provision for the creation of criminal offences);
 - (b) authorising any person or body conducting a review under this section to enter any premises for the purposes of the review (including provision for the creation of criminal offences);
 - (c) imposing requirements as to the making of a report on each review under this section;
 - (d) for the making by such persons as may be specified in or under the regulations of written statements of proposed action in the light of the report and the period within which any such action must or may be taken;
 - (e) for the provision to members of the public of copies of reports and statements made under paragraphs (c) and (d), and for charging in respect of any such provision;
 - (f) for the disapplication, in consequence of a requirement under this section, of any requirement under any other enactment to conduct an assessment or to do anything in connection with an assessment.
- (9) Regulations under subsection (8) may in particular make provision by applying enactments falling within subsection (10), with or without modification, for the purposes of reviews under this section.
- (10) The enactments falling within this subsection are enactments relating to the powers of persons and bodies to which this section applies for the purposes of assessments other than reviews under this section.
- (11) Regulations under subsection (8) may make provision authorising or requiring the doing of anything by reference to the determination of a person of a description specified in the regulations.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Children Act 2004, Section 20. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Pt. 2 substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1158\)](#), arts. 1, 5(1), **Sch. 2 para. 55(2)**
- F2** Words in Pt. 2 substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1158\)](#), arts. 1, 5(1), **Sch. 2 para. 55(2)**
- F3** S. 20(4)(b)(c) repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 184, 188, [Sch. 14 para. 96\(2\)](#), **Sch. 18 Pt. 5**; S.I. 2007/935, **art. 5**
- F4** S. 20(4)(d) substituted (1.4.2009) by [Health and Social Care Act 2008 \(c. 14\)](#), ss. 95, 170, **Sch. 5 para. 78**; S.I. 2009/462, **art. 2**, [Sch. 1 para. 35](#)
- F5** S. 20(4)(e) omitted (1.4.2015) by virtue of [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 \(c. 2\)](#), s. 49(1), **Sch. 12 para. 68**; S.I. 2015/841, [art. 3\(x\)](#)
- F6** Words in s. 20(4)(g) substituted (1.4.2008) by [The Offender Management Act 2007 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/912\)](#), [art. 3](#), **Sch. 1 para. 27(2)(f)**
- F7** S. 20(4)(h) omitted (18.9.2012) by virtue of [The Public Bodies \(Abolition of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Courts Administration and the Public Guardian Board\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/2401\)](#), [art 1\(2\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 19](#)
- F8** Words in s. 20(7) substituted (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 188, **Sch. 14 para. 96(3)(a)**; S.I. 2007/935, **art. 5**
- F9** Words in s. 20(7) substituted (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 188, **Sch. 14 para. 96(3)(b)**; S.I. 2007/935, **art. 5**

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 20 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 67(2); s. 20 in force for E. at 1.3.2005 by S.I. 2005/394, **art. 2(1)**

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Children Act 2004, Section 20.