

family. Given this, I was very concerned that so many local authorities were not undertaking their basic statutory requirements and reviews. This means some children, particularly where family have disengaged will have no outside visits, year to year. This in itself increases the vulnerability for young people. We were also concerned that many establishments struggle to attract a workforce with significant skills and expertise to meet the needs of children and young people

5. During the course of Good Intentions in 2017 we had an initial meeting with the IICSA team. In May 2019 I was asked to provide a witness statement for the inquiry which was submitted in July 2019. I gave evidence to the inquiry on 7th October 2019.
6. In relation to **DFE003374** I have been asked to comment on a number of points as follows ;
7. The Governments priorities for safeguarding in education over the next 5 years look comprehensive and appropriate. There still remains a gap in updating the Disabled Children and Child Protection guidance which was last updated in 2009 and is now wholly inadequate. I would still like to see a focus on the most vulnerable children who live away from home in residential special schools
8. Keeping safe in education, the Council for Disabled Children did not respond to this consultation.
9. I am very disappointed in the DFEs decision not to monitor and inspect Residential Special Schools to the same standards as Children's homes. I maintain my belief that all children who spend substantial time away from home without the protective factor of family, and for many children access to appropriate communication, should have the same quality standards
10. . I do not recall being content with the approach in regard to continuing to use minimum standards. While there are, of course , legislative challenges the goal should be clear that all children have quality standards wherever they are, and that "minimum" will never be good enough. This is particularly so given the Minister herself recognises the increasingly complex needs of the children using this provision