GARETH LECKEY



ABOUT ME

I am originally from Northern Ireland and have worked in social care for over 25 years, qualifying as a Social Worker in 2004. I am passionate about improving the experiences and outcomes of children living in residential care and believe that children should receive safe, nurturing and high-quality care from adults who understand their individual needs.

I particularly enjoy spending time in children's homes, talking with children and adults and understanding what life in the home is really like. My approach is supportive, motivational and solution-focused. I enjoy mentoring and encouraging others, recognising what they do well while helping them develop confidence and improve practice.

Outside of work, I enjoy fitness, football and bagpiping and regularly perform as a bagpiper at a range of events.

KEY SKILLS

- Regulation 44 independent visits, quality assurance reviews and improvement planning.
- Qualified Social Worker with extensive experience across children's social care, regulation and residential care.
- Ofsted registration and inspection preparation, including pre-registration visits, mock inspections and regulatory compliance reviews.
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to translate complex regulations, evidence and findings into clear, practical, plain-English advice.
- Registered Manager mentoring, Responsible Individual support and supervision, and leadership development.
- HR, safeguarding and practice investigations, including report writing and recommendations.
- Training and development for adults and leadership teams.
- Quality assurance, auditing and evaluation of children's lived experiences and outcomes.
- Supportive and motivational approach, helping managers and teams identify strengths while confidently addressing areas requiring improvement.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

I qualified as a Social Worker in 2004 and, prior to joining Ofsted, held a number of management positions across different local authorities. These roles provided me with extensive experience of frontline children's social care, safeguarding, management and leadership.

I subsequently spent five years as an Ofsted Social Care Regulatory Inspector, inspecting and regulating children's social care services. This developed extensive expertise in regulation, safeguarding, inspection, compliance, leadership and management and, importantly, evaluating the quality and impact of care experienced by children.

Most recently, I worked for 3.5 years as Head of Quality Assurance for a large national provider of children's residential services. In this role, I provided oversight, challenge and support across services, working closely with Registered Managers, Responsible Individuals and senior leaders to improve quality, strengthen safeguarding and prepare services for regulatory scrutiny.

I now provide independent consultancy and quality assurance support to children's homes, including Regulation 44 visits, Ofsted registration and inspection preparation, quality reviews, training, investigations, Registered Manager mentoring and Responsible Individual supervision. My experience enables me to combine a strong understanding of regulation with a practical appreciation of the realities of running a children's home. My aim is always to provide constructive support that strengthens adults and leaders and, ultimately, improves children's lives.

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