

Divisions Affected - All

EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 May 2024

Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Outcome Report

Report by the Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. The Education and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to**

To receive this report as information related to the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services which was undertaken in February 2024.

The Inspection Report by Ofsted and a summary power point slide pack is provided to outline key elements of the inspection, outcomes, and next steps.

Executive Summary

- 2. This report shares the outcome of Oxfordshire's recent inspection, which took place in February 2024, with the report being published on the Ofsted website on 9th April 2024. We achieved a good outcome across all 5 inspected areas including;**
 - the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families,
 - the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection,
 - the experience and progress of children in care,
 - the experiences and progress of care leavers and:
 - overall effectiveness.
- 3. The current Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services framework has been in place since 2018. The current framework sets the timescales for regular formal judgement inspections, every three year alongside annual focused visits and possible Joint Targeted Area inspections in between each formal inspection.**

4. Oxfordshire was last formally inspected in April 2018, when an overall judgement of Good was given.
5. Since that time we have had one focused visit and the Covid 19 pandemic delayed the framework for sometime and this contributed to a delay in our most recent formal inspection.
6. Ofsted have asked us to provide our action plan in response to this inspection by 18th July 2024. This will include plans to improve in the four key areas outlined in the report, as follows:
 1. The timeliness of actions and decisions have been made for children to escalate to pre-proceedings arrangements of the public law outline.
 2. Multi-agency arrangements within children's and adult services to promote information-sharing, analysis of risk and planning for care leavers, who misuse drugs, and alcohol, engage in criminal behaviors and are at risk of, or are, being exploited.
 3. The work, together with corporate leaders, to increase the range and take-up by care leavers of employment, education and training opportunities,
 4. The quality of direct work with disabled children who are in care.

Exempt Information

7. Not applicable.

Key Judgements and Summary of Inspection

8. What needs to improve?
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection; good
The experiences and progress of children in care; good
The experience and progress of care leavers; good
The Impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families; good

Financial Implications

9. No direct revenue or capital implications are anticipated. It is possible that some of the plans to improve in the four key areas could result in a financial implication. At this stage this is assumed to be achieved within existing budget allocations.

Comments checked by:

Thomas James, Head of Finance Business Partnering,
thomas.james@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

10. There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report. The taking of such action as outlined in the report is lawful under the general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011; it is also lawful under section 20(8) Children Act 2004. There are no issues relating to GDPR as the data does not enable identification of an individual school or child, and the information is available to the public.

Comments checked by: Naomi Bentley-Walls

Naomi Bentley-Walls – Head of Law – Childcare
Naomi.BentleyLawson@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Staff Implications

11. Not applicable.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

12. No specific issues noted in this report.

Sustainability Implications

13. No specific issues noted in this report.

Consultations

14. Not applicable.

NAME Lisa Lyons, Director of Children's Services

Annex: ILACS Ofsted Report April 2024
PowerPoint Slide Pack summarising the Ofsted Report and next steps.

Background papers: Not applicable

Contact Officer: Jean Kelly, Deputy Director, Children's Social Care
Jean.kelly@oxfordshire.gov.uk

May 2024