

Together we can do

**GREAT THINGS**

# **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**7<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Children's Social Care response to ILACS  
inspection**



## Background

- Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) took place between 09.09.19 and 20.09.19

| Judgement  | Grade                |
|--|----------------------|
| The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families | Requires improvement |
| The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection    | Requires improvement |
| The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers        | Good                 |
| Overall effectiveness  | Requires improvement |

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**GREAT THINGS**

**“the local authority has taken swift and decisive action to strengthen services. Pace has increased since the focused visit, and solid improvements can be seen in many service areas, including at the front door and for children in care. Firm foundations are in place to sustain and build on the improvements made.”**

**OFSTED 2019**



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## GREAT THINGS

- We are committed to delivering consistently high-quality services for every child and young person and remain ambitious that they all achieve excellent outcomes.
- Key areas that are fundamental:
  - Workforce
  - Practice Framework – Signs of Safety
  - Quality Assurance Framework
  - Engagement with children and families

## **Response to inspection**

- Well established Quality Improvement Board is primary mechanism to drive improvement.
- Existing improvement plan strengthened and aligned to Ofsted recommendations
- No requirement to produce an action plan for Ofsted

## Areas for development

- The quality and impact of management oversight, including that of child protection chairs.
- The timeliness of assessments and support for children who return home
- The quality of children's plans, so that they are timebound, and include clear actions and contingency plans
- The response to disabled children, children in private fostering arrangements, and children who are homeless aged 16 and 17
- The timeliness of foster carer's reviews
- The tracking and monitoring of children missing from education

## **2 Strategic Priorities**

- Improving the quality and consistency of Care Planning;
- Reflective discussions which are targeted at improving outcomes for children.

## Participation and engagement

- Developing champions across the workforce to ensure participation and engagement remains a priority;
- Broadening participation and engagement mechanisms to hear from a wider range of children, young people and families;
- Improving feedback and communication mechanisms to ensure we are regularly communicating with those who had provided feedback;
- Ensuring that the voice of children and young people is heard throughout all our work.

# Inspection framework

- Annual self evaluation document
  - What do we know about the quality of social work practice?
  - How do you know?
  - What are your plans for the next 12 months
- Annual engagement conversation
  - DCS and Ofsted
  - Spring 2020