

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

**15 November 2021**

**Key Findings and Actions in  
Response to Ofsted  
Focussed Visit – July 2021**



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**Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director for Children and Young  
People's Services**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the committee with an introduction to the presentation giving information in relation to the key findings and actions in response to Ofsted focussed visit in July 2021 which is appended to this report at appendix two.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The presentation sets out the key themes of the focussed Ofsted inspection which took place in July 2021. It also highlights the service' intention to build on strengths identified and any areas where actions are required.

**Recommendation**

- 3 That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:
  - a) note the content of the presentation and comment accordingly

**Background**

- 4 In 2017 Ofsted introduced its framework for inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS). This framework and guidance help inspectors to be consistent in inspections while being flexible enough to respond to individual circumstances of local authorities.

- 5 The ILACS inspection framework is a whole system approach that looks to take a proportionate approach. The framework includes an annual self-assessment and annual conversation with Ofsted for each local authority area; standard two-week inspections every three years for local authority's who require improvement to be good; standard one-week inspections for local authority's who are good or outstanding; and up to two shorter focused visits within each three year cycle of inspection. Whilst full inspections receive a graded judgement, focused visits include a letter summarising findings along with areas for improvement and priority action where appropriate.
- 6 Durham had a full ILACS inspection in September 2019. In July 2021, Ofsted conducted a two-day focused visit in Durham concentrating on children in care. Area of focus included:
- Quality of matching, placement and decision making;
  - Experiences and progress of disabled children in care;
  - Experiences and progress of children living in unregulated and /or unregistered provision.
- 7 The presentation at appendix 2 provides information relating to the most recent Ofsted focused visit and covers the following areas:
- Key themes;
  - intention to build on strengths identified;
  - Actions.

## **Conclusion**

- 8 Members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be aware of the key themes of the focused inspection, areas of strength and actions required.

## **Background papers**

**None**

## **Other Useful Documents**

- Ofsted report following focused visit to Durham's Children's Services <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50168138>

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Finance**

Not applicable.

### **Consultation**

Not applicable.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Not applicable.

### **Climate Change**

Not applicable.

### **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Not applicable.

### **Staffing**

Not applicable.

### **Accommodation**

Not applicable.

### **Risk**

Not applicable.

### **Procurement**

Not applicable.