

June 2016 Ofsted News

Here is some updated OFSTED News for your information:

Ofsted have published their Annual Report today:

Link: [Ofsted social care annual report 2016](#)

Some key findings in the report: An 'inadequate' judgement is not related to size, levels of deprivation, or funding - the quality of leadership in an area is the single most important factor in the standard of help, care and protection given to children

- Once children are in the care system, they are often well cared for - it is children who have not yet entered the system because their needs have not been recognized, or whose support has been too superficial and ineffective, who need attention
- There are many outstanding and dedicated professionals working with children; however, they need the right leadership and support to succeed - in strong authorities, they make a huge difference to children's lives
- Manageable workloads are also crucial - the variation between local authorities in terms of the numbers of children in need per social worker is very wide, ranging from 7 in some areas, to as high as 34 in others. This year, inspectors found 14 local authorities where social workers' caseloads were too high.
- The picture for residential care has continued to improve and inspections show that many children are benefiting from the help authorities provide. Four out of 5 children's homes are now rated good or better, and at nearly 80%, the proportion of good and outstanding children's homes is higher than that of secondary schools. Meanwhile, inspections of independent fostering agencies found 85% of providers to be good or outstanding.
- Children in care often make stronger progress educationally than vulnerable children who remain with their families, supported by social workers. Inspection evidence shows that when children in care are poorly served it is because good practice is made impossible by weak management, and uncommitted local politicians.
- While there are many local authorities rated 'inadequate' for help and protection, in many cases the support that they give to looked-after children is better. The majority of local authorities also deliver good or outstanding adoption services, reflecting a pattern that has been established for many years.

Ofsted have also published a consultation document of the future of Social care Inspections.

Link: [Consultation document: Future of social care inspection](#)

Dates for Single Inspection Framework for the rest of 2016:

- July 4th
- September 12th
- September 26th
- October 24th
- November 14th

Most Recent OFSTED SIF Reports:

Cornwall : Good Overall; Children in Help and Protection: Requires Improvement

Isles of Scilly: Good (The Isles of Scilly do not have any Children in Care or any children on a CP Plan)

Bromley: Inadequate

Sefton: Requires Improvement.

OFSTED PowerPoint: Improving outcomes for children looked after and care leavers: A call for action in the South West Region.

This was held on 16th June 2016 and was led by Chris Sands. The full PowerPoint is on the [Ofsted Twitter pages](#). (link)

This is worth a look.

Joint Targeted Area Inspections:

- The second theme for the Joint Area Targeted Inspections starting in September will be domestic abuse.

Michele Mohamed

Service Improvement – Ofsted Lead

Children and Families Services

People and Communities Department

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Tel 01225 396307 Fax 01225 395416