



**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**8 MARCH 2022**

**REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT  
JANUARY 2022**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
SERVICES**

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee the outcome of the recent Ofsted Focused Visit.
2. The Ofsted report is expected to be published on 2 March 2022. A copy of the report will be circulated to members of the Committee and published on the County Council's website as soon as it is made available.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

3. The Ofsted Inspection was undertaken in accordance with the framework for the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services.

**Background**

4. Children's Social Care is subject to regular Ofsted inspections under the framework of Inspections Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). These inspections focus on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home, the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption and the experiences and progress of care leavers.
5. The framework also evaluates the effectiveness of leaders and managers, the impact they have on the lives of children and young people, and the quality of professional practice.

6. Following a full ILACS Inspection, Ofsted make the following graded judgements:
  - overall effectiveness,
  - the experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection,
  - the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers,
  - the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families.
7. The framework ordinarily works to a three year cycle. A full inspection results in the service being graded and then followed by annual visits in the two intervening years. Annual visits are based on either a Focused Visit or a Joint Area Targeted Inspection (JTAI). The timetable of inspection has been impacted upon by Ofsted availability during the pandemic, and the recent Focused Visit was the first following the full ILACS inspection in 2019.
8. In 2019, the service was graded as Requiring Improvement to be Good for overall effectiveness, Good for the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families, Good for the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers and remained as Requires Improvement to be Good for the experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection.
9. The service has continued to make progress against the continuous improvement plan and have revised the Road to Excellence in 2021, which will now run until 2023.
10. The department received notification from Ofsted on 19 January to give notice of the Focused Visit on Children in Need of Help and Protection, commencing the week beginning 24 January. Two Inspectors visited Leicestershire, undertaking field work for the first two days and then spending two days on site meeting with social workers to discuss children's cases, and with senior leaders.
11. The letter detailing the findings from the inspection will be published on 2 March 2022. The Focused visit inspection does not give a graded judgement, however, detailed feedback from Ofsted on their findings is set out in the published letter. Ofsted will take their findings from the Focused Visit into the next full inspection.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

12. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments will be undertaken as appropriate should there be any reviews of Departmental strategies or services.

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