

**Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's
Services (ILACS) Full Inspection in Bristol:
September 2018**

**Update for Adults, Children, Education and Public
Health Scrutiny Commission
January 2019**



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- The impact of leaders on social work practice: **Good**
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection: **Requires Improvement to be Good**
- The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers: **Requires Improvement to be Good**
- **Overall effectiveness: Requires Improvement to be Good**
- The full report may be found here:
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50033714>



An intense three weeks of inspection activity found that:

'Since the single inspection framework (SIF) inspection in 2014 and the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) in 2017, services have improved substantially for care leavers, children in care and children in need of help and protection.'

'...strategic partnerships that are well developed and increasingly effective...

...outward looking and innovative...

...considerable progress in developing an environment in which good social work can flourish...

...[Children] at risk of immediate harm receive timely support and appropriate interventions. The vast majority of children in long-term foster care live in stable homes and make good progress. The local authority is in touch with virtually all of its care leavers, most of whom receive a good level of support. Services for disabled children, which were previously an area of weakness, are now a strength.'



However...

‘outcomes for children and young people at every stage of their contact with children’s services are not yet uniformly good’

What needs to improve

- The quality of strategy discussions, reviews and child in need meetings, including records of decision-making.
- The quality of analysis in assessments and plans so that they are explicit about the desired outcomes and the timescales for completion.
- The quality of case recording, including recording of management decision-making.
- The effectiveness of arrangements to secure a sufficiency of placements.
- The educational progress and achievement of children in care.
- The take-up of return home interviews for children who go missing from home.



Improvement plan

- Improvement plan developed
 - Must be submitted to Ofsted by end January 2019
 - It incorporates Strengthening Families Transformation Plan, considered by Scrutiny in October 2018, was endorsed by inspectors and our ambition continues to be whole system transformation to ensure the delivery of strengths based, trauma informed support for children and families from the earliest point need is identified)
- Our plan is ambitious and SMART – it is aimed at achieving Good or better performance within 12 months. It is written to deliver on the following themes:
 - **A system that supports** – ensuring that service configuration and business information enables managers to deliver consistently excellent outcomes
 - **Every contact counts** – ensuring excellent practice and skilled practitioners make a difference for every child and family with whom we work
 - **From process to practice** – actions focussed on performance that drives improved outcomes and gives all children the best start in life
 - **Ambitious for those in and leaving our care** – actions aimed at ensuring children in our care have every opportunity to achieve their potential and are set up for life as they move into adulthood

