

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
Date:	27 May 2014
Title:	Ofsted Inspection of Hampshire Children 18 February – 12 March 2014
Reference:	5841
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Summary

- 1.1. Hampshire Children's Services were inspected by Ofsted under the new 'Single Inspection Framework' (SIF) between 18 February and 12 March 2014. The full inspection report was published on 23 April 2014 and this report is attached for members.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The SIF is a new inspection framework which was introduced in November 2013 and Hampshire were the 11th authority to be inspected under this framework.
- 2.2. The framework covers child protection, safeguarding and services for children in care but explicitly seeks to 'raise the bar' in these areas.
- 2.3. For the first time the framework incorporates a judgement on outcomes for care leavers. It also highlights Adoption as one of the key judgements; previously this had been a separate, smaller inspection.
- 2.4. The framework also includes a review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's (LSCB) performance which is also graded.
- 2.5. Therefore the framework makes the following judgements:
- the **overall effectiveness** of services and arrangements for children looked after, care leavers and children who need help and protection.

The overall effectiveness judgement is a cumulative judgement derived from:

- the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection

- the experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence including graded judgements on:
 - adoption performance
 - the experiences and progress of care leavers
- leadership, management and governance

Plus a judgement on the overall effectiveness of the LSCB.

- 2.6. The inspection had three main phases. The first was an unannounced inspection of 'front door services'. This included close inspection of the Children's Reception team and Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub at Hantsdirect. Inspectors also visited Eastleigh and Winchester, New Forest, Test Valley, Basingstoke and Rushmoor Referral and Assessment teams in these first three days. Inspectors tracked approximately 85 cases in forensic detail.
- 2.7. The second phase involved practitioners and managers auditing a further 20 cases that were chosen by Ofsted according to set criteria.
- 2.8. The third phase involved inspectors tracking these 20 cases plus a further 100 or so selected as they visited team offices. In this final phase Ofsted met elected members and external partners as well as visiting every team and meeting a wide range of social workers whilst reviewing further cases. Overall 11 Ofsted inspectors were involved.
- 2.9. Inspectors also met parents and children and young people who were in receipt of help and support, including families who had children in child protection plans.
- 2.10. What was different about this inspection was that it was 'case-led'. The inspectors drew their hypotheses from the cases that they had seen and reviewed and their questions to partners and senior managers were primarily based on their forensic review of these cases (over 200 in total).
- 2.11. The outcomes of the inspection are positive for Hampshire. The inspectors found that all services to children and families were at least 'good' and some aspects of our services were outstanding. It is unusual to receive such a positive endorsement so early in an inspection framework and, so far, these appear to be the best published results of any authority.
- 2.12. As always, there are areas for development but none of these are a surprise and were all identified by the services. It is a requirement that an improvement plan is submitted to Ofsted within 70 days of the inspection being published and work has commenced on developing this plan.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Children and Families Advisory Panel is invited to note the content and findings of the Ofsted Inspection of Hampshire Children's Services.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. There are no negative impacts on equalities arising from this report.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. Effective services for children will mean that fewer children are likely to offend in the future. Therefore, this report highlights a positive trend.

3. Climate Change:

a) There are no proposals in the report that impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption.

b) There are no proposals in the report that impact upon the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts.