



# Children's Services Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children

January 2010

**Children Leeds**

the Leeds Initiative

*Local partnerships making things happen*



## Purpose of presentation

- To highlight the findings of the Ofsted inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services in Leeds
- To provide details of improvement planning that reflects:
  - the recent announced inspection
  - the July 2009 unannounced inspection
  - the wider CAA performance framework
- To consider your role and how you can contribute



## Context

- The Comprehensive Area Assessment is an annual assessment, prepared by the Audit Commission
- Looks at all aspects of life in an areas
- The regime has changed this year and has become a harder test
- For the children's performance ratings, there are 3 blocks of assessment:
  - Block A – inspections of schools, nurseries, residential homes and other settings, regulatory inspections
  - Block B – Unannounced & Announced Inspections and serious case reviews
  - Block C – Overall performance based on statistical measures of the every child matters performance indicators
- This presentation focuses particularly on the findings from the latest announced inspection (part of Block B), but also sets this in the wider context



## The Announced Inspection – What happened?

- Ofsted notified us of the inspection on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009
- Ofsted gave us over 50 separate KLOES for investigation & position statements were developed against each one
- Onsite inspection took place from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009
- Onsite visit included:
  - Scrutiny and analysis of 20 casefiles (formally) and up to 35 as follow up to our unannounced inspection
  - There were 5 inspectors on site, plus one shadow inspector
  - Over 100 meetings were arranged and held during that period
  - Over 25 parents were seen by the Inspectors
  - Over 80 children and young people met the Inspectors



## A brief summary of what the inspection told us

### Some positives:

- ‘The effectiveness of services in taking reasonable steps to ensure children and young people are safe is adequate’. “Significant” improvements have been made since the Unannounced Inspection
- There has been a “good level of achievement” CYP Plan
- Partner contribution to safeguarding is “good” with recent strengthening made to leadership arrangements in the health sector

### However:

- Concerns raised about capacity and systems, such as ESCR
- Quality and timeliness of assessment & direct work with children and young people requires immediate improvement
- The inspection found more needs to be done on performance management and quality assurance systems



## Key recommendations from the inspection – Safeguarding

- Link the findings of inspection to the existing improvement plan
- Evaluate the allocation of children's service resource to ensure that the capacity of the workforce is sufficient to meet demand.
- Tackle high level of social worker caseloads and team manager capacity, and ensure newly qualified social workers are protected from carrying high and complex caseloads.
- Re-configure the contact centre procedures to more closely align with national definition; and evaluate the implementation of recent improvements to consolidate and inform further development.

and...



## Key recommendations from the inspection – Safeguarding

- Improve the timeliness and quality of social work responses for assessments, case planning and recording, including the analysis of risk.
- Accelerate plans to introduce a comprehensive performance management and quality assurance framework to support casework practice
- Tackle the difficulties associated with the electronic recording system
- Match capacity for the delivery of child protection conferences with the demand for service



## Summary of ratings - Safeguarding

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Inadequate
<b>Capacity for Improvement</b>	Adequate
<b>Children and young people are safe</b>	Adequate
<b>Children and young people feel safe</b>	Adequate
<b>Quality of Provision</b> Service responsiveness Assessment & direct work with children & families Case planning, monitoring & review	Inadequate Inadequate Inadequate Inadequate
<b>Leadership and management</b> Ambition and prioritisation Evaluation, including performance management User engagement Partnerships Equality & diversity Value for Money	Inadequate Adequate Inadequate Adequate Adequate Good Inadequate



## Key recommendations from the inspection – looked after children

- Review the level of resource available so that a sufficient professional social worker capacity is provided to meet the demand for service.
- Improve the quality of core assessments and case records.
- Strengthen arrangements for monitoring the quality and outcomes of external placements.
- Ensure all looked after children and young people are made aware of how to make a complaint and how to access the children's rights services.
- Ensure the views of looked after children and young people are sought and taken into account in the reshaping of services.
- Develop a clear and understandable set of measures and targets for the achievement of the Children's Promise.

And...



## Key recommendations from the inspection – looked after children

- Review the level of resource available to support the children in council care and increase awareness of its role and membership so that it is more representative of the looked after children population.
- Improve the range of placement choice available, particularly those from minority ethnic communities or for those children and young people with complex needs
- Improve the effectiveness and relevance of personal education plans
- Improve the regularity and timeliness of information-gathering on the progress of looked after children to enable regular tracking of pupils' progress and more timely evaluation of the impact of actions and interventions.



## Summary of ratings – Looked After Children

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Adequate
<b>Capacity for Improvement</b>	Adequate
<b>Outcomes for looked after children and care leavers</b>	
Being Healthy	Good
Staying safe	Adequate
Enjoying and achieving	Good
Making a positive contribution	Adequate
Economic well-being	Adequate
<b>Quality of Provision</b>	Adequate
Service responsiveness	Adequate
Assessment & direct work with children & families	Inadequate
Case planning, monitoring & review	Adequate
<b>Leadership and management</b>	Adequate
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Evaluation, including performance management	Inadequate
User engagement	Adequate
Partnerships	Good
Equality & diversity	Good
Value for Money	Adequate



## Other key challenges

- As well as work around safeguarding and looked after children...
- Reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training
- Raising attainment in the lowest performing secondary schools (National Challenge work)
- Reducing teenage conceptions
- Developing stronger leadership and governance
- Workforce development

*So, a busy year ahead!*



## What happens next

- Improvement work continues
- The new improvement board starts its role with Bill McCarthy as Independent Chair. The first meeting is scheduled for January 2010
- The interim DCS, Sandie Keene, takes up post for the next month or so
- Recruitment of a permanent DCS begins
- The children's services review findings will be shared and plans put in place to implement any recommendations
- Continue to implement integrated services