



Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	19 September 2017	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services and Review of Islington Safeguarding Children Board

1. Synopsis

1.1 This report updates the committee on the results of the Ofsted statutory inspection of children's services under the 'Single Inspection Framework' (SIF). The inspection took place in Islington between 28 April 2017 and 26 May 2017. A full copy of the inspection report is attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note and make any comment on the findings in the Ofsted inspection report.

3. Background

The Ofsted Inspection Framework

3.1 The SIF is the current framework used by Ofsted to carry out inspections of Local Authority Children's Services departments. Ofsted aims to have inspected every local authority under the SIF within three years from their previous full inspection which was under an earlier framework.

3.2 Islington was previously inspected in 2012 so there was some significant delay in the subsequent inspection taking place.

- 3.3 The SIF inspects against five main areas and makes a formal judgement of 'Inadequate', 'Requires Improvement', 'Good' or 'Outstanding' against each of these. It then combines these findings to make an overall judgement of the Local Authority's Children's Services.
- 3.4 Alongside the SIF, Ofsted carries out a review of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and makes a judgement about how well this is working to safeguard and protect children.

4. Inspection of Islington's Children's Services (28 April – 26 May 2017)

4.1 The findings against each of the key judgements are set out below:

Children who need help and protection:	Good
Children Looked After and achieving permanence:	Good
Adoption performance:	Good
Experience and progress of care leavers:	Good
Leadership, management and governance:	Outstanding
Overall judgement:	Good

- 4.2 Out of 143 authorities inspected so far where the judgement has been published, 42 were graded as Good overall. Only 8, including Islington, have been graded as Outstanding for Leadership, Management and Governance.
- 4.3 Only 6 recommendations were made, all of which were previously identified as areas for action and development and were already in progress. These recommendations can be seen on page 7 of the full report.
- 4.4 The **Islington Safeguarding Children's Board** was judged to be **Good**, with strong evidence of partners working together to improve outcomes for children and to keep them safe.

Future Inspections

- 4.5 The current SIF framework is coming to an end this year, once the last few remaining authorities are inspected. The SIF will be replaced by a new framework due to be in place by January 2018. The details of this are still under consultation but it is envisaged that authorities judged to be Good or Outstanding under the current framework will be subject to a lighter touch inspection, taking place over two weeks rather than the current four weeks.
- 4.6 In addition to full inspection of LA Children's Services, Ofsted also carry out Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAs). These are themed inspections across Children's Social Care, Early Help, Police and Health Services with approximately 10 local authorities selected for each inspection under each theme. Ofsted have so far carried out JTAs on Child Sexual Exploitation, Neglect and Domestic Abuse. The next topic is thought to be on intra-familial sexual abuse and this inspection round will commence in September 2017.
- 4.7 Ofsted are also carrying out inspection of local authority Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services. It is likely that Islington will be subject to such an inspection within the next year and preparations for this are underway.

5. Implications

5.1 **Financial Implications:** None

5.2 **Legal Implications:**

The Council must prepare a written statement setting out the action it proposes to take in the light of the Ofsted report and the timetable for doing so (section 137 Education and Inspections Act 2006). The Council must publish the Ofsted report, and action plan, within 70 working days of receiving the report

in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Inspection of Local Authorities) Regulations 2007.

5.3 Environmental Implications: None

5.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Ofsted inspection found that social work practice was fair and equitable and took into account the needs of children and families from BME communities and those where children have a disability.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The Ofsted inspection findings provide significant reassurance that the quality of social work and early help practice with children and families is robust, enhances children's safety and wellbeing and is compliant with statutory requirement and expectations.

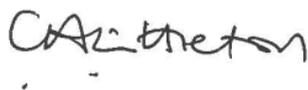
Appendices

- Ofsted Inspection Report - London Borough of Islington; Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

Background papers:

- None

Signed by:



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Date 11/09/2017

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