

Ofsted Focused Visit
Children in Need and Child Protection
May 1st and 2nd 2019

The Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services Framework (ILACS) includes a suite of engagement, assurance and inspection activity. We were advised in January that in 2019 we would receive the two-day Focused Visit and we were invited to identify the area of practice we wanted Ofsted to examine. We purposefully selected the weakest area, (children in need and child protection CIN/CP) to avoid the risk of going into a full inspection, without having had a rigorous examination of the area of practice that most frequently achieves a lower grading in inspection.

The feedback from inspectors pulled no punches and has given us a very clear picture of our progress since the inspection in 2015, in short, we are headed in the right direction but our progress needs to pick up pace, we need to do better! Inspectors, of course, were able to identify strengths and good practice examples; some of our practitioners are as good as you would see anywhere in the country, but we are not yet anywhere near good overall for CIN/CP.

The value of the Focused Visit can't be over-stated as inspectors set out what we need to do, to get to where we want to be, when they undertake their full inspection, probably later this year or early next. **Only good is good enough for children and young people in Devon**

We need to significantly strengthen:

- **Supervision** has to be regular and frequent and it has to be penetrating and robustly challenging.
- **CIN and CP Visits** have to be timely and any out of time have to be looked into and redressed promptly
- **Practice** has to be purposeful and cases cannot drift, we need to be pro-active and immediately responsive to indicators of heightening and reducing risk
- **Audit**, the quantity is about right but quality and rigour have to be significantly strengthened, no more over-optimistic, over-generous judgements
- **Eclipse** needs to work better and we need to use it better.

Next Steps

10th May Draft letter to DCS for factual accuracy check

15th May DCS response to Ofsted

23rd May pre-publication letter sent to DCS

28th May letter published on Ofsted website

Darryl and I will set out what we intend to do to meet the challenge that has been set, and will publish our plan at the same time that Ofsted publish their letter

Jo Olsson
Chief Officer Children's Services

3.5.19