

Central Bedfordshire Council Children's Services Post Ofsted Action Plan 2017 - 2018

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Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
21 November 2017

OFSTED Single Inspection Framework (SIF)

Inspection date: 12 June 2017 – 6 July 2017

Report published: 25 August 2017

Action Plan publication date: 4 December 2017



The purpose of the SIF inspection

Provides evaluation of the effectiveness of local authority arrangements in terms of:

- Help and protection for children
- The experiences and progress of looked after children, including adoption, fostering, the use of residential care, and children who return home
- The arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after
- The experience of care leavers
- Management, governance and leadership

It gives a steer on improvement opportunities

SIF Inspection findings



Children's Services in Central Bedfordshire are Good

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1.Children who need help and protection | Good |
| 2.Children looked after and achieving permanence | Requires Improvement |
| 3. Adoption performance | Good |
| 4. Experience and progress of care leavers | Good |
| 5. Leadership, management and governance | Good |

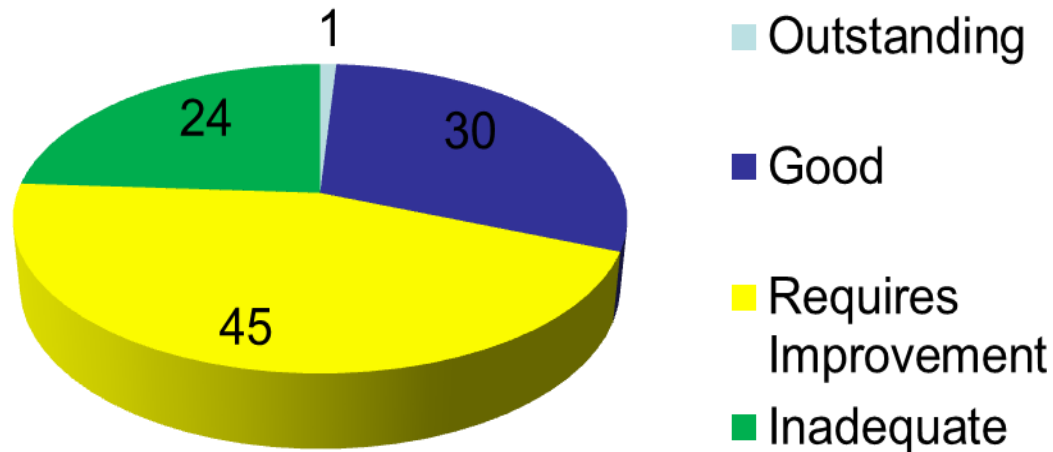
National/regional picture

We are now one of:

31% judged Good or Outstanding nationally

5 out of 11 Councils judged Good in the East of England

OFSTED outcomes nationally %



The process of the SIF inspection

Every 5 years – last CBC OFSTED inspection
in 2012



OFSTED inspectors on site for 4 weeks

8 inspectors, plus one Quality Assurance inspector

245 children's cases submitted and tracked

90 interviews with practitioners and managers

It's part of being a regulated service

Key findings



“Senior managers and elected members have created and modelled an open learning culture, engaging staff successfully to drive and sustain service improvement.”

“Social workers are tenacious in building positive relationships with children, and children speak positively about their workers.”

“Morale across the workforce is good, supported by manageable caseloads.”

“The director of children’s services has built a resilient workforce, creating the right conditions to support effective, child-centred practice.”

“Performance in some areas matches or exceeds top-performing local authorities in England.”

Positive findings

- When children are at significant risk of harm, social workers take decisive action to safeguard them
- Timely early help assessments are of good quality
- The response to domestic abuse referrals by children's social care is rigorous and timely
- The local authority matches children with prospective adopters quickly
- Care leavers live in safe, good-quality accommodation; their physical and emotional needs are well met and they receive good support to access employment, education and training



Our young people

Members of the CiCC are making a real difference”



“The remarkable CiCC works hard to make sure that senior managers and elected council members hear children’s voices and understand their experiences. Because of their work, many services that children receive have improved.”

“Members of the CiCC said that they feel valued and that they are confident that senior managers and leaders take what they say seriously”

“Senior leaders....listen to, and act on, what children and young people tell them.”

OFSTED Action Plan

- 9 OFSTED recommendations
- Action Plan will be finalised and submitted on 4 December 2017
- Action Plan at Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 January 2018
- The particular plan for children looked after and achieving permanence (Requires Improvement) will also be provided for scrutiny

9 OFSTED recommendations

Even better if.....



1. Improve the effectiveness of frontline managers, IROs and child protection chairs –updating assessments and preventing drift for all children
2. Prompt initiation and comprehensive completion of pre-proceedings work when children’s circumstances do not improve
3. Provide rigorous oversight and tracking of children plans when children become looked after, so that permanence is achieved for all looked after children

OFSTED 9 recommendations cont.



4. Strengthen the performance management and quality assurance framework so managers will have a clear line of sight to practice and quality in all key areas
5. Make sure that the Corporate Parenting Panel is routinely informed about issues and areas for improvement, so that it is able to act as a critical friend, challenging and holding to account senior managers and driving improvements in outcomes for children in care and care leavers
6. Improve the quality of personal education plans (PEPs) for all looked after children- clear analysis of need, precise, detailed and time bound targets

OFSTED 9 recommendations cont.

7. Ensure that children's physical and emotional health needs are considered earlier when plans are being made for them to be placed at a distance from the authority so that they can access any services they need in a timely manner
8. Ensure that 16-17 year old homeless children are provided with clear information about their entitlements to accommodation and support under section 20 of the Children Act 1989
9. Ensure the agency decision maker provides a coherent rationale for all adoption decisions and that this is recorded on children's files

What our children say

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=hh63fuYFtbl&feature=youtu.be>

[https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local
authority_reports/central_bedfordshire/052_Single%20inspecti
on%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review
%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/central_bedfordshire/052_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf)