



Committee report

Committee	CHILDREN'S POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date	7 MARCH 2019
Title	BRIEFING ON RECENT OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES.
Report of	HEAD OF STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is to provide members with details of the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Services.

BACKGROUND

2. The Isle of Wight Children's Social Care Services were inspected by Ofsted in November 2018. The findings were published in January 2019. These findings were:
 - The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families is **good**.
 - The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection is **good**.
 - The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers is **good**.
 - Overall effectiveness is **good**.
3. Ofsted reported that services for children in the Isle of Wight have improved since the single inspection in 2014, when they required improvement to be good. The strategic partnership between the Isle of Wight Council and Hampshire County Council has brought stable and consistent leadership, increased resilience and a firm focus on continual improvement. Ofsted noted that the Island location brings unique challenges and opportunities that leaders have understood and responded to well. They have worked purposefully to improve services for children and to create a sustainable service. Children's lived experience is at the centre of social work practice on the Island.
4. Areas highlighted included; the strong response to families who need access to early help services, the prompt and effective response from the multi-agency

safeguarding hub (MASH), comprehensive child protection investigations, and a firm focus on children's needs. Inspectors commented on the high quality, effective support to prevent young people becoming homeless, social workers building strong relationships with children in care, effective training and support for foster carers, strong support for care leavers from their personal advisors and children benefiting from timely adoptions and placements.

5. The Ofsted report said that highly skilled, ambitious senior leaders have a clear, shared vision and an accurate understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement of the service. Together with political leaders, they have responded well to growing demands, creating a stable and permanent workforce. Ofsted also identified that the participation of children is widely promoted, and many children have regular access to senior managers to influence the development of resources and services.
6. Areas for continuous improvement, that the service had also identified, include oversight of plans for cases being put before the courts (pre-proceedings), ensuring that when 16/17-year olds become homeless social care and housing needs are assessed and met, ensuring sufficient suitable housing for care leavers and reflective discussions are recorded in supervision. The service is embarking upon a transformation programme to further improve our provision of services to deliver effective interventions with local families. Our ambition is to be an outstanding service for Isle of Wight families. The full report (Appendix A) can be accessed through the following link.
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50048228>

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee note the report and outcome of the Ofsted inspection

APPENDIX

7. [Appendix A](#) - Isle of Wight Council Inspection of children's social care services

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