

Ofsted: Improving Provision and Outcomes for Care Leavers

Care Leavers Event 2020
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Temporary pause to inspections

Routine inspection paused

Schools, further education and skills, early years, area SEND and social care.

Urgent inspections carried out

Where specific concerns were raised.

Social care

Regulatory work continued to help maintain social care provision for the most vulnerable children.

Early years

Registration of vital early years providers continued.

Inspections of local authority children's services (ILACS)

- ILACS implemented in January 2018
- It introduced a new judgement on the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers
- Care leavers' experiences are a central part of ILACS inspections
- Pre-pandemic, we had expected to carry out more focused visits looking at the experiences and progress of care leavers during 2020

ILACS focused visits – key messages

- The focused visits are not short or standard inspections.
- All ILACS existing principles remain.
- The focus will be on the **quality and impact** of decisions made for children and young people
- We will evaluate and seek assurance about the quality and impact of practice within a challenging context when circumstances may have resulted in decisions that may have been different to those taken in normal times.
- After the visit, inspectors will write a short letter setting out strengths, what needs to improve and, where necessary, areas for priority action.



ILACS focused visits



- There is a new section in the ILACS framework: guidance for ILACS focused visits during the return to routine inspection.
- The scope crosses:
 - help and protection
 - children in care and care leavers
 - the impact of leaders.
- We want to be able to assure all stakeholders, including children and families, that the sector is recovering.
- We'll visit as many local authorities as possible, prioritising those we have concerns about – we'll also visit a sample of those judged good or outstanding at their last inspection

ILACS focused visits – scope: children in care and care leavers

In the children in care and care leavers area, inspectors will evaluate:

- **edge of care/pre-proceedings**, particularly those subject to a letter before proceedings
- **the focus on physical and mental health** of children in care and care leavers, including how the local authority has maintained contact with children and young people and how they have facilitated contact with families
- **placement decisions**, including the quality of matching, particularly when sufficiency is a challenge.



ILACS focused visits – scope: impact of leaders

In the impact of leaders area, inspectors will evaluate:

- the quality assurance of practice and 'line of sight' to the quality and impact of practice with children and families
- management and workforce capacity, including responses to staff well-being
- the effectiveness of leaders in leading and contributing to multi-agency working that leads to effective social work practice.



Some messages from inspection – what does outstanding look like?

- ✓ Strong corporate parenting across the local authority and beyond – there are consistently high aspirations for children and young people
- ✓ The views of children and young people are central to practice and wider service planning
- ✓ Effective help to prepare for independence, including emotional support
- ✓ Staying Put available for all those young people will benefit from it – considered as early as possible; integrated into all relevant areas of practice
- ✓ A range of good accommodation available to care leavers
- ✓ Young people are meaningfully involved in high-quality pathway planning

Performance was improving before inspection 'paused' – more than 50% of LAs had improved their overall judgement since their previous inspection



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