

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 For Council to note the outcomes of the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, in which Ofsted judged North Lincolnshire to be outstanding across all areas, and with no identified areas for improvement.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The new Ofsted framework for inspecting local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers, was enacted in January 2018. In line with previous inspections, the framework focuses on the effectiveness of local authority children's services and arrangements for:

- the help and protection of children
- the experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home
- the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption
- the experiences and progress of care leavers

There is also a focussed attention on assessing the effectiveness of leadership and management and the impact this has on the lives of children and the quality of practice.

- 2.2 The Inspection of North Lincolnshire's Local Authority Children's Services took place between 3 and 14 October 2022. Following a period of quality assurance, the final inspection report was published on 25 November, in which the formal judgement grades were confirmed. This is the first judgement for North Lincolnshire's local authority children's services since 2017.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council notes the outcomes of the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services in which Ofsted judged North Lincolnshire to be outstanding in all areas, as follows:

- the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families
- the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers; and

- overall effectiveness

3.2 The report highlights that:

- Social workers work hard to listen to children and their families when they need extra help. They work well with children, parents and carers to help families find their own solutions and only step in when it is really needed
- There is a lot of work done by social workers and other professionals to help and support children to stay at home and be cared for by their parents. Sometimes this is not always possible and social workers act quickly, and take care to ask children where they would like to live. This means that most children in care live with foster families or with a member of their family
- When children live in foster families, many children said that they felt safe and well cared for and quickly felt like part of a family
- Children and young people are supported to do their very best at school and achieve whatever they want to after they leave school
- Leaders have made sure that when young people leave care they can still be supported as adults by children's services and for as long as they need to, which really showed how the council care for children and young people throughout their lives
- Leaders and politicians work well together to make North Lincolnshire a great place to live. They talk to parents, young people and children and listen to their views about how to make things better. Often it is children's views that are used to make positive changes
- The council are working hard to make North Lincolnshire a place where social workers want to stay and work so that children can keep the same social worker

3.3 To read the inspection report in full, please [click here](#).

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Overall, this means that children who need help and protection, children in care and care leavers receive the right help and support when they need it, and they benefit from a consistently high standard of practice that is based on the importance of relationships. Ultimately, North Lincolnshire is making a real difference to children's experiences and they are loved and cared for.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no specific resource implications associated with this report.

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 The outcomes of the inspection demonstrate how Local Authority Children's Services are contributing to the outcomes and priorities articulated in the Council Plan.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 N/A

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Children, young people, parents, carers, foster carers, adopters and representatives from agencies and organisations, including schools and settings, along with Adoption and Fostering Panel chairs, were directly engaged in the inspection process. Their views and experiences contributed to the outcome and are featured in the report.

8.2 A child and young person friendly version of inspection report is also available.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 For Council to note the outcomes of the Inspection of Children's Services undertaken in October 2022.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services North Lincolnshire report (and children and young people's version).