

**Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>08 June 2018</b>
Subject:	<b>Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Focussed Visit</b>

**Summary:**

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It assesses council children services, and inspects services for children looked after, safeguarding and child protection.

Ofsted implemented a new inspection regime for Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) in January 2018 which replaced the Single Inspection Framework (SIF). Under the ILACS framework an authority will continue to be inspected every 3 years but will also receive up to two focussed visits between inspections. A judgement is not awarded for a focussed visit.

Lincolnshire Children's Services was last inspected under the SIF in November 2014 and achieved a judgement of 'good'. Lincolnshire Children's Services hosted in April 2018 (10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>) a focussed visit. The focus of the visit was permanency planning and achieving permanence for children in care.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the attached report and make comment.

## **1. Background**

Between Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Lincolnshire Children's Services was subject to a focussed visit in relation to permanency planning and achieving permanence for children in care.

Inspectors were on site Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, during which they spent the majority of their time sampling children's cases with social workers to evaluate the authority's arrangements around permanence.

Inspectors considered a wide range of evidence, including discussions with social workers, senior managers and Independent Reviewing Officers. They also looked at performance management and quality assurance information and children's case records.

**2. Conclusion**

Overall Ofsted reported that leaders are ambitious for children in care and that they know their services and prioritise resources to support social work to flourish. This results in stable and experienced teams who deliver high quality social work which improves outcomes for children in Lincolnshire. Child-focused practice ensures children are able to contribute and engage in their planning and good quality direct work with children is helping them make sense of their life experiences.

A small number of areas, one being Mosaic, were highlighted which could be further strengthened to ensure that permanence for all children is achieved, and in a timely way. These areas are detailed on page 2 of the attached letter.

**3. Consultation**

**a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?**

N/A

**b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

**4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Letter form Ofsted detailing findings

**5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Carey Gordon, who can be contacted on 07766366380 or [carey.gordon@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:carey.gordon@lincolnshire.gov.uk).