

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
26 JUNE 2012

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR FOR FAMILY SERVICES
OFSTED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER
CHILDREN

Members of the Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the outcomes of the recent Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children services in the Royal Borough and areas identified for development.

FOR INFORMATION

1. OVERVIEW OF INSPECTION

- 1.1 Ofsted carried out an 'announced' inspection of the Royal Borough's safeguarding and looked after children's services between 10 and 20 April 2012. The final inspection report was published on the [Ofsted website](#) on 29 May 2012.
- 1.2 Of the 22 gradings published in the report all are reported as "good" with some areas for development highlighted. The grading for overall effectiveness of safeguarding services was "good" and the grade for overall effectiveness of looked after children services was also "good." Our capacity to improve safeguarding services and looked after children services were also both graded as "good".
- 1.3 Inspectors noted that the Council and its local partners have a considerable history of achieving good outcomes for children who need safeguarding and protecting or who are looked after. They found an established culture of continuous improvement and a progressive attitude, supported by a strong political commitment and desire to build quality services.
- 1.4 New demands on services were said to be met with rapid and imaginative responses and the Council was seen to be continually searching for efficient use of its resources. The inspectors reported

that Councillors and officers continually focus on the needs of children and seek the views of families and service users.

- 1.5 The views of children, their parents and carers are actively sought by Councillors and professionals as part of commissioning services and the inspectors found clear evidence that these consultations influenced and shaped services. Services for Looked after Children benefited from strong leadership and management across the authority. Inspectors noted that there was a shared vision among Councillors that drives the Council, as a corporate parent, to ensure that each Looked after Child and young person has every opportunity to achieve.
- 1.6 The children and young people who contributed to the inspection reported generally good levels of satisfaction with the service and a significant majority considered that being in care had improved their lives. The relationship between children and their social workers was highlighted with over 85 per cent of children and young people reporting that the relationship was good.
- 1.7 There were some improvement areas highlighted, including some for immediate action as follows:
 - improve the timeliness of recording and ensure that minutes of meetings and case plans are distributed quickly;
 - Inner North West London PCTs and the urgent care centre, St Charles Hospital should ensure that staff are undertaking robust safeguarding risk assessment when registering children and young people for treatment;
 - improve the school attendance of looked after children with a particular focus on those who miss 35 days per year;
 - improve the timeliness and management oversight of case recording; and
 - ensure that all children and young people know how to contact their independent reviewing officers.
- 1.8 These are in hand and a draft action plan between the local authority and health service partners is in place and due to be signed off following a meeting in early July.
- 1.9 Whilst the Ofsted inspection was integrated between health and children's services, the Care Quality Commission will publish a separate report, in due course. The overall grade for the health component is "good." Inspectors found that the delivery of health services to looked after children is good. Universal health outcomes for immunisations, completion of annual health assessments and dental checks are in line with, or better than, comparator

authorities. Health assessments are good quality; comprehensive and detailed.

- 1.10 The neighbouring boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster City Council were inspected during 2011 and they too received an overall grade of "good" for both safeguarding and looked after children services.

FOR INFORMATION

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Background papers:

final inspection report, published on the [Ofsted website](#)

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