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To the children and young people in Leicestershire

Inspection of children's services

In April 2024, Ofsted inspectors visited your area. They looked at children and young people's experiences of the help, protection and care given to them by workers at the local authority. They also looked at what leaders at the local authority do to make these services better.

We have asked the workers at the local authority to share this letter with you. It tells you the main things that inspectors found. There is a more detailed report on our website that you can read if you want to.

What grades did inspectors give the local authority?

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
The experiences and progress of children in care	Outstanding
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness	Outsanding

- Services for children and families in Leicestershire have much improved since the previous inspection in 2019. Services for children in need of help and protection are now good, the experiences of children in care and care leavers are now outstanding. Senior leaders know what else they need to do to make sure that services for all children and young people continue to get even better.
- There are lots of great services in Leicestershire that help children when difficulties arise. This means when families have problems, they get help quickly so that the problems don't get any bigger. This means that more children can continue to live safely and happily at home with their families.
- When children are at risk of serious harm, social workers act very quickly to make sure they are kept as safe as possible.
- Social workers talk with children and parents and carers about their concerns. They try hard to understand what home life is like for children and provide help when it is needed.
- When it is not possible for children to live with their parents or extended family, social workers do what they can to find the right carers for children, either with foster carers or in children's homes, where children are well looked after.
- Senior leaders take their responsibility for children in care very seriously. Inspectors saw many examples of children doing well, making fabulous progress and enjoying new hobbies and interests.
- Senior leaders and social workers make sure that children in care have the best opportunities to do well at school, and their physical and emotional health needs are prioritised.
- Care leavers benefit from meeting their personal advisers (PAs) well before they leave care. This helps to ensure that care leavers get to know their worker at an early stage, which helps them with the transition to becoming a young adult.
- Care leavers are very well supported in their education, employment and training. This is a priority area of focus for senior leaders, they recognise that, while numbers of care leavers in education and/or employment is gradually increasing, there is more to do to improve in this area.
- Finally, thank you for giving your time to help us with our inspection and sharing your views. You have helped us to understand what is going well in Leicestershire.

Yours faithfully

Ceri Evans
Lead inspector