

# Getting to Outstanding

Update to Children's Select 15.03.2022

# Under the ILACS inspection framework Ofsted undertake a range of activities:

- Full inspection – our last was in 2019 where we were rated Good across the board
- Annual conversation – our last was in Nov. We use this to share our self-assessment and respond to any lines of enquiry this raises for Ofsted.
- Focused visits – between ILAC inspections Good and Outstanding authorities can expect a focused visit. This is a 2 day inspection involving 2 HMI on-site looking at a discreet area of practice.
- Short-inspections – where an authority is good at the last full inspection it would expect the next inspection to be a short inspection (one week). Ofsted reserve the right to undertake a full 2 week ILACS if the authority appears to be declining. Any focused visit will be used to help determine this.

Our Focused Visit took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Jan with the focus being on Care Leavers.

## Headlines:

- Care leavers in Wiltshire receive the right support, at the right time, to help them make progress in their lives and a large majority have positive experiences.
- They are well supported by a passionate, skilled, and stable workforce. Their individual achievements and successes are recognised and celebrated by workers, managers, leaders and elected members who are aspirational for them and share an ambition to be the ‘best parents in the country’.
- Leaders have a good understanding of service strengths and development areas and actively seek scrutiny and challenge from external sources and through regular and varied consultation with care leavers. This leads to plans which drive service improvement and help care leavers achieve their potential.

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## Drilling down a little further:

- Care leavers have stable and trusting relationships with their workers and are visited regularly.
- Care leavers who sought or who are still seeking asylum are helped well by specialist workers and a range of community services to help them settle and start their new lives.
- Care leavers are well supported in accessing the help and services they need to meet their physical and emotional health needs.
- They have strong support from their personal advisers and this really benefits their emotional well-being. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, enhanced support to care leavers helped lessen loneliness and the impact of isolation.

## Drilling down a little further (continued):

- Care leavers who have limited support networks can access a range of services that provide the longer-term emotional and practical support they need as young adults learning to live independently.
- Most care leavers live in safe, stable and suitable accommodation that is well matched to their needs. Effective systems are in place to help senior managers measure and monitor the sufficiency and quality of accommodation. This includes senior managers visiting accommodation to see the quality first-hand.
- Care leavers in Wiltshire are helped to live successfully in independent accommodation and hold secure tenancies because of the preparation and support they receive.

## Drilling down a little further (continued):

- Care leavers are helped to apply for higher education, training and apprenticeships and given the support they need to stay in their chosen pathway and to succeed.
- The corporate parenting panel is inclusive of care leavers and provides effective scrutiny of the quality and impact of services received by care leavers.
- Staff enjoy working in Wiltshire and morale is high. This is having a positive impact on practice and improved outcomes for care leavers.

## The inspection identified two areas for development:

- The frequency of supervision and recording of reflective practice discussion and actions.
- The depth of information gained from audits that focus on the experiences of care leavers, and the extent to which their voices are included in this work to help inform learning and service planning.



# Priorities in Service Development Plan

1. Children and young people are central to everything we do; therefore, **we will listen to their voice and use this to inform practice development.** We will ensure their voice is clear in all our work and they understand fully why decisions are made.
2. That **father's voices are heard, and we build on their strengths as well as recognising their potential risks;** that we work with them to be part of their children's lives.
3. Our Early Help offer is strong. Families get the right help at the right time from the most appropriate professionals; and our **partnership working encourages early help from the front door and upon step down.**

## Priorities in Service Development Plan(continued)

4. We work collaboratively and have **good access to CAMHS and SEND to support children** and young people's mental health and thrive educationally and socially.
5. Children and young people's needs are matched to the right carers be that with extended family, foster care or adoption. **We have placement choice** to match children and young peoples need for therapeutic care to support them to recover from their trauma. **Permanence planning is timely**, and children understand their story and lived experience
6. **Transition planning will be seamless** in preparing children and young people for adulthood
7. To support our workforce to be their best; to be happy in their roles, learn and develop. **To promote creativity and celebrate our successes and differences.**