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Introduction

This official statistics release reports on the outcomes of local authority children's services inspections that have taken place under the Children Act 2004 and which have subsequently been published.

This report includes findings from all inspections that have taken place under the safeguarding and looked after children inspection framework, with fieldwork being between June 2009 and July 2012. The report does not follow the usual quarterly period (April to June) because this completes the cycle of inspections under this framework. This will be the last time these inspections are included in this release.

Ofsted recently undertook a review of the effectiveness of this and other official statistics releases to ensure they are fit for purpose and meeting user needs. This consultation is now closed but a response to the comments and suggestions received will be published in the near future.

A new framework of inspections of the arrangements to protect children began in May 2012 and findings from this framework will be reported in a new report in early 2013.

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Key findings

Safeguarding and looked after children inspections since June 2009

- The first inspection under this framework took place in June 2009 and the final inspection took place in July 2012. There were a total of 161 inspections of safeguarding (including nine re-inspections) and 153 inspections of services for looked after children (including two re-inspections). There was no inspection of Isles of Scilly's looked after children services[1]. (Tables 1 and 2)

- Of the 152 local authorities inspected, five were outstanding for safeguarding (3%), 57 were good (38%), 66 were adequate (43%) and 24 were inadequate (16%). (Table 2)

- There were nine re-inspections of safeguarding. Seven local authorities improved from inadequate to adequate but two remained inadequate. (Table 2)

- Of the 152 local authorities inspected for their services for looked after children, two were outstanding (1%), 79 were good (52%), 67 were adequate (44%) and three were inadequate (2%). (Table 2)

- There were two re-inspections of services for looked after children. One local authority improved from inadequate to adequate and one was adequate for both inspections. (Table 2)

- The safeguarding and looked after children inspection framework was revised on 1 November 2010, streamlining the number of sub-judgements. As the two inspection frameworks are not comparable, detail about the sub-judgements are included only for those taking place within the revised framework.

- Of the 117 inspections of safeguarding that have taken place under the revised framework, 19% were outstanding for *Ambition and prioritisation* , 16% were outstanding for *Partnership working* and 15% were outstanding for *Capacity to improve*. The most common sub-judgements found to be inadequate were *Quality of provision* (13%) and *Performance management and quality assurance* (11%). These were also the most common sub-judgements found to be adequate. (Chart 2)

- Of the 109 inspections of services for looked after children that have taken place under the revised framework, 17% of local authorities were outstanding for *Ambition and prioritisation* and for the looked after children outcome *Making a positive contribution*. A further 16% were outstanding for *Capacity to improve*. By far the most likely sub-judgement to be inadequate was *Being healthy* at 15%, followed by *Achieving economic well-being* at 7%. (Chart 3)

[1] Although the Isles of Scilly has policies and arrangements in place it did not have any looked after children so Ofsted was unable to undertake an inspection of the effectiveness of the service in improving outcomes for children.

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Safeguarding inspections between 1 April 2012 and 31 July 2012

- There were 33 inspections of safeguarding between 1 April 2012 and 31 July 2012 that have subsequently been published. Of these, one was outstanding for *Overall effectiveness* while six were inadequate. Thirteen were good and thirteen were adequate. (Tables 1 and 3)

- Six local authorities were inadequate for *Overall effectiveness* in the last quarter. Of these, all six were inadequate for *Performance management and quality assurance* and *Quality of provision*. Over the period since November 2010, when the revised framework was introduced, these have been the sub-judgements that are most likely to be inadequate. (Tables 3 and 4)

Services for looked after children inspections between 1 April 2012 and 31 July 2012

- Between 1 April 2012 and 31 July 2012, there were 32 inspections of services for looked after children. Of those inspected, two authorities were outstanding for *Overall effectiveness*, 16 were good, and 14 were adequate. No local authorities were inadequate. (Tables 5 and 6)

- During the period between 1 April 2012 and 31 July 2012 no local authorities were found to be inadequate for overall effectiveness of services for looked after children.

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Methodology

1. There have been revisions to the inspection framework over the period since June 2009 and these are reflected in the relevant table footnotes. For a more detailed explanation, please see the official statistics published on 29 September 2011: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-local-authority-childrens-services-inspections-and-outcomes

2. Full inspections of safeguarding and of looked after children are run on a three-year cycle, so that by the end of the three year period, which ended in July 2012, all 152 local authorities had been inspected at least once.

3. Eight safeguarding and looked after children inspections took place in July 2012. Although these are outside of the data period covered by this report (up to 30 June 2012) they have been included in this publication as they signify the end of this framework of inspections. A new framework of Inspections of the arrangements to protect children began in May 2012.

4. For more information on how Ofsted regulates and inspects children's social care, please go to the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Children-s-social-care

Additional information

All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional analysis at regional and local authority level, are available in Excel format on the Ofsted website in the same location as this document. Underlying data are also available in Excel and comma separated values (.csv) formats.

The selected tables and charts included below are numbered according to the accompanying excel workbook.

Chart 1: Overall judgements for safeguarding and services for looked after children inspections taking place between 1 June 2009 and 31 July 2012 (percentages)[1]

1. The final safeguarding and looked after inspection took place in July 2012. There have been a total of 161 inspections, including two full re-inspections and seven re-inspections of safeguarding services only.

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Table 1: Overall effectiveness and Capacity to improve grades[1] for safeguarding and services for looked after children inspections carried out between 1 June 2009 and 31 July 2012[2,3]

Number

	Safeguarding		Services for Looked After Children	
	Overall effectiveness	**Capacity to improve**	**Overall effectiveness**	**Capacity to improve**
Outstanding	5	21	2	19
Good	57	69	79	81
Adequate	73	58	69	51
Inadequate	26	13	3	2
Total inspections	161	161	153	153

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Local authorities were given the following grades for the judgements shown: 1 Outstanding, 2 Good, 3 Adequate and 4 Inadequate.
2. Announced inspections of safeguarding and services for looked after children ran on a three-year cycle. The first inspections took place in June 2009 and the last inspection took place during July 2012.
3. As at 31 July 2012, there had been 161 inspections of safeguarding and 153 inspections of looked after children's services completed. This included two full re-inspections and seven re-inspections of safeguarding only. Over the whole period 151 local authorities have been inspected for both service areas.

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Table 2: Overall effectiveness and Capacity to improve grades[1] for safeguarding and services for looked after children inspections carried out between 1 June 2009 and 31 July 2012[2,3], by local authority

Local Authority	Publication date	Safeguarding		Services for Looked After Children	
		Overall effectiveness	Capacity to improve	Overall effectiveness	Capacity to improve
Barking and Dagenham[4]	27/07/2012	2	2	3	3
Barnet	24/02/2012	2	2	2	2
Barnsley[4]	10/08/2012	4	3	3	3
Bath & North East Somerset	24/02/2012	3	3	2	2
Bedford Borough	09/03/2012	3	3	3	3
Bexley[4]	24/08/2012	4	3	2	2
Birmingham	16/07/2010	4	4	3	3
Blackburn with Darwen	09/03/2012	2	2	2	2
Blackpool	04/12/2009	3	3	2	2
Bolton	23/03/2012	2	2	2	2
Bournemouth	08/04/2011	2	2	2	2
Bracknell Forest	16/12/2011	2	2	2	2
Bradford[4]	27/06/2012	2	2	2	2
Brent	18/11/2011	3	3	3	2
Brighton & Hove	12/05/2011	3	2	3	2
Bristol	24/05/2010	2	2	2	2
Bromley	24/05/2010	3	3	3	3
Buckinghamshire	24/01/2011	2	2	2	2
Bury[4]	13/06/2012	3	3	3	2
Calderdale	26/02/2010	4	3	3	3
Cambridgeshire	23/10/2009	3	3	3	2
Camden	10/04/2012	2	2	2	2
Central Bedfordshire	10/04/2012	2	2	3	3
Cheshire East	12/08/2011	3	3	3	3
Cheshire West and Chester	10/12/2010	4	4	3	3
City of London	17/04/2012	2	2	2	2
Cornwall	23/10/2009	4	4	4	4
Cornwall (Re-inspection)	25/02/2011	4	3	3	3
Coventry	12/05/2011	2	2	3	2
Croydon[4]	28/06/2012	3	2	3	2
Cumbria[4]	29/05/2012	4	3	3	3
Darlington	04/01/2012	3	3	3	3
Derby City	27/06/2011	3	3	3	3
Derbyshire	06/05/2011	2	2	2	2
Devon	07/08/2009	3	3	2	2
Doncaster	12/05/2011	3	3	3	3
Dorset	28/10/2011	2	2	2	2
Dudley	25/01/2012	3	2	2	2
Durham	25/01/2012	1	1	2	1
Ealing	27/06/2011	2	1	2	1

East Riding of Yorkshire	16/12/2011	3	2	2	2
East Sussex	24/01/2011	2	2	2	1
Enfield	21/06/2010	2	2	2	2
Essex	06/08/2010	4	3	3	2
Essex (Re-inspection)	29/09/2011	3	3		
Gateshead	11/03/2011	3	3	3	3
Gloucestershire	24/01/2011	4	3	3	3
Gloucestershire (Re-inspection)	05/03/2012	3	2		
Greenwich	06/08/2010	3	3	3	2
Hackney[4]	10/07/2012	2	1	2	2
Halton	25/03/2011	2	1	2	1
Hammersmith & Fulham	22/07/2011	2	1	2	1
Hampshire	12/08/2011	2	1	2	1
Haringey	25/02/2011	3	2	3	2
Harrow[4]	27/06/2012	3	3	3	2
Hartlepool	16/07/2010	2	2	2	2
Havering	28/10/2011	3	3	3	3
Herefordshire	22/10/2010	3	3	2	2
Hertfordshire	19/11/2010	3	3	3	3
Hillingdon	04/12/2009	2	2	2	2
Hounslow	06/11/2009	2	2	2	2
Isle of Wight	18/10/2010	3	3	3	3
Isles of Scilly[4]	03/07/2012	2	2	N/A	N/A
Islington	09/03/2012	2	1	2	1
Kensington and Chelsea[4]	29/05/2012	2	2	2	2
Kent	19/11/2010	4	4	4	3
Kingston on Thames[4]	10/07/2012	4	3	3	3
Kingston upon Hull	12/08/2011	3	2	3	3
Kirklees	18/11/2011	2	2	2	2
Knowsley	12/03/2010	2	1	2	1
Lambeth[4]	29/05/2012	1	1	1	1
Lancashire	09/03/2012	2	2	2	1
Leeds	07/01/2010	4	3	3	3
Leeds (Re-inspection)	10/10/2011	3	2		
Leicester City	25/01/2012	3	2	2	2
Leicestershire	14/05/2012	3	2	2	2
Lewisham	23/03/2012	1	1	2	1
Lincolnshire	21/06/2010	1	1	2	1
Liverpool	08/04/2011	2	2	2	2
Luton	24/04/2012	2	2	3	2
Manchester	17/12/2010	3	2	3	2
Medway	18/11/2011	3	3	3	3
Merton	24/02/2012	2	2	2	2
Middlesbrough	22/07/2011	3	2	3	3
Milton Keynes[4]	24/08/2012	3	2	3	2
Newcastle upon Tyne	09/03/2012	2	2	2	2
Newham	25/01/2012	3	3	3	3
Norfolk	22/07/2011	3	3	3	3
North East Lincolnshire[4]	27/06/2012	3	3	2	2
North Lincolnshire[4]	13/06/2012	2	1	1	1

North Somerset[4]	24/08/2012	3	2	2	2
North Tyneside	08/05/2012	2	1	2	1
North Yorkshire	23/10/2009	3	3	2	2
Northamptonshire	06/05/2011	3	3	3	3
Northumberland	14/05/2012	1	1	2	1
Nottingham City	24/01/2011	2	2	2	2
Nottinghamshire	21/05/2010	4	4	3	2
Nottinghamshire (Re-inspection)	17/10/2011	3	2		
Oldham	24/02/2012	2	1	2	1
Oxfordshire	06/05/2011	2	2	2	2
Peterborough	21/05/2010	4	3	2	2
Peterborough (Re-inspection)	06/09/2011	4	4		
Plymouth	21/05/2010	2	2	2	2
Poole	16/12/2011	2	2	2	2
Portsmouth	27/06/2011	3	2	2	2
Reading	23/03/2012	3	3	3	3
Redbridge	05/03/2010	3	3	3	3
Redcar and Cleveland[4]	10/07/2012	3	2	2	2
Richmond Upon Thames	14/05/2012	2	2	2	2
Rochdale	06/08/2010	3	3	3	3
Rotherham	27/08/2010	3	3	3	3
Rutland	18/11/2011	3	3	2	2
Salford	21/06/2010	4	4	3	3
Sandwell	13/01/2010	4	4	3	3
Sandwell (Re-inspection)	20/02/2012	3	3		
Sefton	27/06/2011	3	2	2	2
Sheffield	16/11/2010	3	2	3	2
Shropshire	25/03/2011	3	3	2	2
Slough	01/06/2011	4	4	3	3
Solihull	13/01/2012	3	2	3	2
Somerset[4]	13/06/2012	3	3	3	3
South Gloucestershire[4]	10/08/2012	3	3	3	4
South Tyneside[4]	15/06/2012	3	2	2	2
Southampton[4]	13/06/2012	3	3	3	3
Southend[4]	27/07/2012	2	1	2	2
Southwark[4]	10/07/2012	2	1	2	2
St Helens[4]	10/08/2012	2	2	2	2
Staffordshire	07/08/2009	3	2	3	3
Stockport	23/03/2012	3	2	3	2
Stockton-on-Tees	22/10/2010	3	3	2	2
Stoke-on-Trent	12/08/2011	3	2	3	2
Suffolk	10/12/2010	3	2	3	3
Sunderland	10/04/2012	2	2	2	2
Surrey	18/10/2010	3	3	3	3
Sutton[4]	29/05/2012	4	3	3	3
Swindon	07/01/2010	2	1	2	2
Tameside	14/05/2012	3	2	2	2
Telford and Wrekin[4]	10/08/2012	3	3	3	3
Thurrock[4]	27/07/2012	2	2	2	2
Torbay	22/10/2010	4	4	3	3
Tower Hamlets[4]	27/07/2012	2	1	2	1
Trafford	24/05/2010	2	2	2	2

Wakefield	26/01/2011	3	3	2	2
Walsall[4]	31/07/2012	4	4	3	3
Waltham Forest	28/10/2011	3	3	4	3
Wandsworth[4]	27/06/2012	2	1	2	1
Warrington	06/11/2009	4	4	3	3
Warrington (Re-inspection)	25/02/2011	3	3	3	3
Warwickshire	16/12/2011	2	2	2	2
West Berkshire[4]	24/08/2012	3	2	2	2
West Sussex	17/12/2010	4	4	3	3
Westminster	28/10/2011	2	2	2	2
Wigan[4]	10/07/2012	2	2	2	2
Wiltshire	24/04/2012	4	3	3	2
Windsor and Maidenhead	30/04/2012	3	3	3	3
Wirral	11/03/2011	2	2	2	2
Wokingham	27/08/2010	3	3	3	3
Wolverhampton	22/07/2011	3	2	2	2
Worcestershire	12/11/2010	4	3	3	3
Worcestershire (Re-inspection)	23/04/2012	3	3		
York	14/05/2012	2	1	2	1

Source: Ofsted inspections

Chart 2: Judgements given for safeguarding inspections between November 2010 and July 2012 (percentages)

Chart 3: Judgements given for inspections of services for looked after children between November 2010 and July 2012 (percentages)

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Glossary

Safeguarding and looked after children inspections

The full inspections of safeguarding and looked after children are run on a three-year cycle. The first inspection took place in June 2009 and the last inspection took place in July 2012. At the end of the three year period all 152 local authorities had have been inspected at least once.

There were seven re-inspections of safeguarding and two re-inspections of services for looked after children over the period. The safeguarding and LAC inspections focus on the quality of services and outcomes for children.

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