



# Northumberland

## County Council

### **COMMITTEE: AUDIT**

**DATE: 28 NOVEMBER, 2018**

### **REVIEW OF EXTERNAL INSPECTION REPORTS – ADULTS & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Report of Cath Mcevoy, Executive Director of Children's Services and Vanessa Bainbridge, Executive Director of Adults Social Care and Commissioning**

**Cabinet Members:** Councillors Wayne Daley and Veronica Jones

#### **1. Purpose of report**

To inform Audit Committee members of the findings from external inspections that have taken place in the last 6 months (1st April 2018 to 30th September) pertaining to Adults and Children's Services, and to provide assurance that the resulting reports are receiving due scrutiny.

#### **2. Recommendations**

Members acknowledge the findings and assess the effectiveness of the scrutiny arrangements.

#### **3. Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the health and well being and education priorities in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

#### **4. Key issues**

All inspected services remain compliant in Adults social care. All Short term support services are judged Outstanding, and all other establishments are judged Good.

Our five residential homes for children and young people including our National

Secure Children's Home continue to be judged as Good or better.

In relation to school inspections that took place in this period, Ofsted has judged 85% of primary schools as Good or Outstanding at the end of September 2018, which is just below the national average (87%), but a 3% increase on the September 2017 figure. The proportion in the secondary school sector is lower, 58% compared with 76% nationally.

Northumberland received a week's notification of its local area SEND (special education needs and disabilities) inspection on 24th September. These are not 'judgement' inspections and the final letter is awaited.

The Adult Learning service received its long awaited inspection in June 2018. It was judged by Ofsted to be Good overall with outstanding leadership and management.

There were no inspections of Children's Centres, safeguarding or youth offending in the period.

## 5. Background

The report focuses on external inspection activity in Adults and Children's Services between April 2018 and September 2018. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspects Adults' provision and Ofsted inspects Children's provision, apart from the Youth Offending Service which is inspected by the HMIP (Probation inspectorate). The report identifies the outcome judgements of the inspections and assurance that appropriate actions are being taken in response to any recommendations. The full inspection reports are available on request.

### ADULT CARE CQC INSPECTION STATUS

The table below lists the services inspected by CQC. NHFT (Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust) manages adult social care services on behalf of the Council with several shared management posts in place. All inspected services remain compliant in Adults social care. All Short term support services are judged Outstanding, and all other establishments are judged Good.

Table 1

Provider	Judgement	Provider	Judgement
Chibburn Court	Good	STSS - Central/SE	Outstanding
Sea Lodge	Good - inspected Nov 18	STSS - Alnwick	Outstanding
Tynedale Hse	Good	STSS - Berwick	Outstanding
Shared Lives	Good - 9.5.18	STSS - West	Outstanding
Hatfield Chase	Good - 14.9.18		

All recommendations arising from these inspections are supported with an action plan and monitoring reports are scrutinised by senior managers and arm's length Governance staff.

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

This report features four types of inspections in Children's services: the Council's residential homes for children, schools; early years providers and the Adult Learning Service.

### **CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL OFSTED INSPECTION STATUS**

Ofsted's and the Council's aim is that all children and young people deserve to live in children's homes that are judged outstanding or at least good. At the 30th September 2018, all of the Council's residential homes for children and young people were judged to be Good or Outstanding. Phoenix House and Kyleo House secure unit were inspected in the summer. Encouragingly, the former was judged Good with Outstanding leadership and the latter was judged Good in all areas, an improved position for both from their previous inspections. Thorndale and Barndale continue to be judged Outstanding in all areas and Coanwood was judged to be Good with Outstanding leadership. This is an excellent outcome.

For all children's homes, there are action plans in place to respond to any recommendations or areas for improvement identified from the inspections. These actions and the progress against them are updated by the Registered Managers and shared with the Performance team. Where appropriate, there is internal challenge to assess if the areas for improvement are sufficiently addressed by the action plans. Where progress has not been sufficiently timely, challenges and agreed changes have been made by the service to meet recommendations accordingly.

### **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

There were no children's safeguarding inspections in the period, although there was a peer challenge of the Leaving Care service in September. This was undertaken by senior managers from Hartlepool and Newcastle Children's Services and the findings will be reported to Family and Children's overview and scrutiny committee in December.

### **SCHOOL INSPECTIONS**

In relation to school inspections, Ofsted has judged 85% of primary schools as Good or Outstanding by the end of September 2018, just below the national average (87%), but a 3% increase on the September 2017 figure.

All new academies will now keep their previous inspection result, explaining the slight decrease in the percentage judged Good or Outstanding locally and nationally. Schools judged to be less than Good receive monitoring visits from

Ofsted and the outcomes of those are reported to the Senior Management Team. Those schools judged as Inadequate and placed in special measures (due to concerns over the ability of the current leadership to bring about improvement) either close or become an academy.

It is the prime responsibility of the governing bodies and head teachers of those schools to ensure improvements are made and those schools and academies that buy into the Council's school improvement service level agreement receive support and challenge from improvement partners (SIPs).

The proportion judged Good or Outstanding in the secondary school sector is lower, 58%, compared with 76% nationally. However, this should be seen within the context of much improved key stage 4 outcomes for Northumberland pupils in 2018, which if continued will impact positively on the inspection judgements in the future. There has been 1 published secondary and middle school inspection report between 1.09.18 – 30.09.18. As with primary schools, all new academies will now keep their previous inspection result.

Working with schools to improve this is a continuing priority for the Council. The Council commissions SIPs to assist, monitor and challenge those schools to improve, one of the products being a termly SIP visit report which includes what judgement they conclude the school would receive if they were inspected at that point.

Members should note that periods between inspections range from 18 months to 3 years therefore statistics of this nature are slow to change and short term trend patterns difficult to identify. Thus the task of turning round underachievement will take at least 3 years based upon the revised Ofsted inspection schedules.

## **EARLY YEARS INSPECTIONS**

Services such as nurseries and childminders are inspected by Ofsted. Quality is high across the many settings with strong partnership working and cross provision engagement. There are around 500 providers and 96% of them are judged to be Good or better by Ofsted compared to 94% nationally. 75% of children were 'school ready' in 2018 (above national average). 333 deliver funded education, of which 195 are PVI's and 125 are schools.

## **6. Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	Raising standards in social care and education are Council priorities.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	None
<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	Regulatory inspections of residential homes assess compliance with HR policies.

<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Audit Committee reviewing a schedule of incoming inspection reports mitigates the risk of the council not taking appropriate action in respect of such issues. It also improves the governance framework.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Ensuring that external inspections are properly followed up will provide assurance to customers that service weaknesses are being addressed.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	All

**7. Background papers:**

Care Quality Commission inspection reports; Ofsted inspection reports; NCC Overview and Scrutiny reports

**8. Report sign off**

Officers	
Finance Officer	N.A.
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N.A.
Human Resources	N.A.
Procurement	N.A.
I.T.	N.A.
Executive Director of Adults Services and Commissioning	Vanessa Bainbridge
Executive Director of Children's Services	Cath Mcevoy
Portfolio Holder(s)	Wayne Daley / Veronica Jones

**9. Author and Contact Details**

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