

Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers

“Services to children and young people in Doncaster are improving.”

“...inspectors have seen considerable cross party political desire and commitment to deliver better outcomes for children and families.”

The Challenge of getting to “Good”



Judgement from Inspection

Revised framework sets higher thresholds for gradings

Judgement Area	Latest Judgement
Overall Effectiveness	★ Inadequate
Leadership, Management and Governance	★★ Requires Improvement
Children who need help and protection	★ Inadequate
Children Looked After	★★ Requires Improvement
<i>Adoption Services</i>	★★★ Good
<i>Care Leavers</i>	★★ Requires Improvement

“In this inspection, there is evidence of the progress made with services for children looked after and care leavers, requiring improvement to be good. Adoption is judged to be good. Overall, this is a reflection of the progress leaders and managers are beginning to make in improving outcomes through better services for children in Doncaster.”

Key Themes: no surprises

- Progress since last inspection recognised by Inspectors
- Positive working relationship between Trust & DMBC
- Good practice and good services seen and reported

But:

- Inconsistent quality of assessments and plans
- Early Help Offer not yet demonstrating impact or preventing children entering statutory services
- Drift and delay in meeting some children's needs
- Partnership working requires better coordination
- Management oversight is inconsistent

20 Recommendations within Report, covering:

Quality

- Effective and timely recording of casework.
- Improve quality and consistency of practice
- Ensure plans are SMART, regularly reviewed and updated

Management

- Improve tracking of case work to reduce drift and delay
- Routine supervision of staff
- Performance Management Framework to measure impact
- Strengthen partners' contribution to Child Protection work
- Effective Corporate Parenting Board

Prevention

- Provide assurance that Early Help services are making a positive impact
- Monitor and learn from episodes of children & young people who go missing

Readiness for Independence and Adult Life

- Support transition to independence for care leavers
- Improve outcomes for Children in Care through the Virtual School.

Action Plan

- Aligned to 20 recommendations
- Shared by Trust and DMBC
- Action plan to Ofsted within 70 working days of report
- Clear ownership and timescales for all actions
- Practice related actions to be complete and embedded within 6 months
- Trust's Practice Improvement Programme to address practice quality related recommendations
- Potential re-inspection within 12-18 months
- Potential for external assurance of progress

Still on track to achieve “Good” by October 2017

“...there is evidence of maturing relationships and a growing trust between elected members, council officers and senior leaders of the Trust.”

“Senior leaders understand the service and improvement plans focus on the right areas to build sustainable improvement.”

“There is evidence of joint working to improve services for children and young people.”

“Social workers speak positively of working in Doncaster”

