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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 Section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and which have subsequently been published.

Ofsted undertakes a number of activities in relation to assessing local authority (LA) children's services. The frameworks within which these activities take place are amended regularly and inspection of local authority children's services is currently undergoing a period of substantial change.

This release includes inspection outcomes for the full one-year cycle of the Child Protection Inspection (CPI) framework, from 1 June 2012 to 31 July 2013, as well as five targeted inspections of looked after children services.

Key findings

Child protection inspections

The authorities that were inspected are not a representative sample of local authorities in England. They were those that had been inadequate or adequate with significant weaknesses in their previous safeguarding inspection. Overall, 50 local authorities had inspections under the CPI framework although one local authority was re-inspected, so a total of 51 inspections were conducted. Of the 50 local authorities inspected, 34 per cent (17) were judged inadequate for *Overall effectiveness,* 58 per cent (29) were adequate and 8 per cent (four) were good.

Chart 1: Inspection judgements for arrangements to protect children: local authorities inspected between 1 June 2012 and 31 July 2013

The outcomes between these inspections, and the safeguarding inspections undertaken between 2009 and 2012, are not directly comparable, because of differences between the frameworks. With that caveat, of the 36 local authorities that were adequate in their safeguarding inspection, four had improved to be good and 19 had remained adequate. Thirteen local authorities had declined to inadequate. Of the 14 local authorities inadequate for safeguarding, ten had improved to be adequate for child protection and four remained inadequate. The group of authorities judged inadequate for child protection is largely, therefore, different to the group with an inadequate judgement for safeguarding.

Chart 2: Change in local authorities overall effectiveness grade between safeguarding and child protection inspection

Four local authorities, though, were inadequate for both their safeguarding and child protection inspections (Birmingham, Calderdale, Cumbria and Kingston-upon-Thames). In addition, Calderdale had a re-inspection of their child protection arrangements, and was inadequate for both these inspections as well as their earlier safeguarding inspection.

Of the four local authorities found to be good for *Overall effectiveness*, all four were also good for *Effectiveness of help.* There was only one judgement of outstanding from all the inspections which was for *Leadership and governance* in Gateshead.

Between three and eight local authorities had been inspected in each region. The four good authorities were in London (two), the North East and the East Midlands. The North East was the only region not to have any local authorities found to be inadequate for *Overall effectiveness*, although this region had only had a total of three inspections. Proportionately, London had the fewest inadequate authorities with only one of the eight inspected being inadequate.

Chart 3: Overall effectiveness of child protection arrangements: Local authorities inspected between 1 June 2012 and 31 July 2013, by region

Inspections of looked after children services

Five local authorities had inspections of their services for looked after children in June and July 2013. Of these, four were found to be inadequate for *Overall effectiveness* and one was adequate. Again, the authorities that were inspected are not a representative sample of local authorities in England, as they were authorities where concerns had been raised about looked after children's services as a result of other inspections.

Table 5: Inspection judgements for inspections of looked after children's services taking place between June and July 2013, by local authority

Local Authority	Publication date	Overall Effectiveness	Capacity to improve	Outcomes for looked after children and young people	Quality of provision	Leadership & Management
Sandwell	02/08/2013	4	3	3	4	4
Kent	23/08/2013	3	2	3	3	3
Medway	23/08/2013	4	3	4	4	4
Norfolk	16/08/2013	4	4	4	4	4
Northamptonshire	23/08/2013	4	4	4	4	4

Source: Ofsted inspections

All four of the local authorities that were found to be inadequate for *Overall effectiveness* of services for looked after children had been adequate in their previous looked after children inspection. One local authority, Kent, which had previously been inadequate, was found to be adequate. Kent was found to have a good *Capacity to improve,* but this was the only good sub-judgement out of all five inspections. Two local authorities, Norfolk and Northamptonshire, were inadequate for all five judgements.

Table 1: Inspection judgements for inspections of the arrangements to protect children: Local authorities inspected between 1 June 2012 and 31 July 2013[1,2]

	Overall Effectiveness	Effectiveness of help	Quality of Practice	Leadership & Governance
Outstanding	0	0	0	1
Good	4	4	2	3
Adequate	29	31	32	31
Inadequate	17	15	16	15
Total	50	50	50	50

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Inspections taking place between 1 June 2012 and 31 July 2013, and published by 31 August 2013.
2. One local authority was subject of a re-inspection of their child protection arrangements so there have been 51 inspections, but only 50 local authorities inspected.

Table 2: Inspection judgements[1] for inspections of the arrangements to protect children taking place between 1 June 2012 and 31 July 2013[2,3,] by local authority

Local Authority	Publication date	Overall Effectiveness	Effectiveness of help	Quality of Practice	Leadership & Governance
Bath & North East Somerset	16/04/2013	3	3	3	3
Bedford Borough	15/02/2013	3	3	3	3
Birmingham	19/10/2012	4	4	4	4
Blackpool	13/07/2012	4	4	4	4
Brent	30/11/2012	3	3	3	3
Bromley	17/08/2012	3	3	3	3
Calderdale	21/01/2013	4	3	4	3
Calderdale (re-inspection)	26/07/2013	4	4	4	4
Cambridgeshire	19/10/2012	4	4	4	3
Cheshire East	23/04/2013	4	3	4	3
Cheshire West and Chester	09/11/2012	3	3	3	3
Cornwall	15/03/2013	3	3	3	3
Cumbria	24/06/2013	4	4	4	4
Derby City	21/01/2013	2	2	3	2
Devon	29/05/2013	4	4	4	4
Doncaster	16/11/2012	4	4	4	4
Gateshead	09/04/2013	2	2	2	1
Greenwich	21/01/2013	2	2	3	2
Havering	09/04/2013	3	3	3	3
Herefordshire	19/10/2012	4	4	4	4
Hertfordshire	08/03/2013	3	3	3	3

Isle of Wight	15/01/2013	4	4	4	4
Kent	15/01/2013	3	3	3	3
Kingston-upon-Thames	12/07/2013	4	4	4	4
Medway	15/02/2013	4	4	4	4
Norfolk	22/02/2013	4	4	4	4
North Yorkshire	09/11/2012	3	3	3	3
Northamptonshire	20/03/2013	4	4	4	4
Peterborough	08/03/2013	3	3	3	3
Reading	23/04/2013	3	3	3	3
Redbridge	12/11/2012	2	2	2	2
Rochdale	21/12/2012	4	3	3	4
Rotherham	10/08/2012	3	3	3	3
Rutland	15/02/2013	3	3	3	3
Salford	12/11/2012	3	3	3	3
Sandwell	09/04/2013	4	4	4	4
Shropshire	08/01/2013	3	3	3	3
Somerset	05/08/2013	4	4	4	4
South Tyneside	24/06/2013	3	3	3	3
Staffordshire	14/12/2012	3	3	3	3
Stockton-on-Tees	15/02/2013	3	3	3	3
Suffolk	12/06/2013	3	3	3	3
Surrey	19/10/2012	3	3	3	3
Sutton	24/06/2013	3	3	3	3
Torbay	09/04/2013	3	3	3	3
Wakefield	07/12/2012	3	3	3	3
Walsall	02/08/2013	3	3	3	3
Waltham Forest	15/02/2013	3	3	3	3
West Sussex	22/03/2013	3	3	3	3
Wiltshire	16/08/2013	3	3	3	3
Wokingham	21/12/2012	3	3	3	3

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. Inspections taking place between 1 June 2012 and 30 May 2013, and published by 30 June 2013.
3. One local authority was subject of a re-inspection of their child protection arrangements so there have been 51 inspections, but only 50 local authorities inspected.

Table 4: Overall effectiveness of arrangements to protect children: local authorities inspected between 1 June 2012 and 31 July 2013[1], by region

	Total	Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
North West	6	0	0	2	4
North East	3	0	1	2	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	6	0	0	3	3
West Midlands	6	0	0	3	3
East Midlands	3	0	1	1	1
East of England	6	0	0	4	2
London	8	0	2	5	1
South East	7	0	0	5	2
South West	6	0	0	4	2

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. Inspections taking place between 1 June 2012 and 31 July 2013, and published by 30 September 2013.

2. Although there have been 51 inspections, Calderdale was inspected twice. The table above includes only the latest outcome and therefore includes the outcomes for the 50 local authorities that have been inspected.

Methodology

1. The inspections of local arrangements for the protection of children began in June 2012 and finished in July 2013. In addition, five local authorities had inspections of their looked after children's services in June and July 2013.

2. There is some discussion in this release of change in outputs for local authorities between the previous safeguarding inspections that took place between June 2009 and June 2012 and the CPI inspections that this release focuses on. There were many differences between the two frameworks and any comparisons must be made with caution.

3. Not all local authorities were inspected under the CPI framework, as reported in this release, and it has been replaced with a single inspection of child protection and looked after children's services. The first inspections under this framework will begin in November 2013.

4. The change to the framework will be reflected in future releases of these official statistics.

5. This release includes outputs based on both number of inspections (51) and number of authorities inspected (50) so there is some variation in the totals given between the tables. The titles explain the coverage for each chart.

6. For more information on how Ofsted regulates and inspects children's social care, please go to the Ofsted website: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/children-and-families-services

Additional information

All the tables and charts shown in this release, along with additional data 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 above are numbered according to the accompanying Excel workbook.

Glossary

Child protection inspections (CPI)

In May 2012 a new one-year framework of unannounced local authority inspections of the arrangements for the protection of children was introduced by Ofsted. These inspections evaluate how effectively children are helped and protected, the quality of front line practice, and the effectiveness of leadership and governance. They consider how effectively the local authority leads partnership working, and how effectively local services contribute to the protection of children and young people (see below for full details).

The inspections included judgements for Overall effectiveness as well as Effectiveness of help, Quality of practice and Leadership and governance.

Looked after children inspections

Five local authorities were subject of inspections of their looked after children's services during June and July 2013. Those inspected were where concerns had been raised about looked after children's services as a result of other inspections.

The inspections included judgements for Overall effectiveness as well as Effectiveness of help, Quality of practice and Leadership and governance.

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