

Local authority and children’s homes in England inspections and outcomes

This release contains:

- Inspections and outcomes for local authority children’s services inspections between 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2018, published by 31 October 2018. (Provisional data)
- Inspections and outcomes for local authority children’s services inspections as at 30 September 2018 and published by 31 October 2018. (Final data)
- Inspections and outcomes of the most recent inspection, for all children’s homes, as at 30 September 2018 and published by 31 October 2018. (Final data)
- Inspections and outcomes for all children’s homes between 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018, published by 31 October 2018. (Provisional data)

The overall effectiveness profile of local authorities (LAs) has improved

As at 30 September 2018, 43% of LAs were judged to be good or outstanding, an increase from 36% after every LA’s first Single Inspection Framework (SIF) inspection.

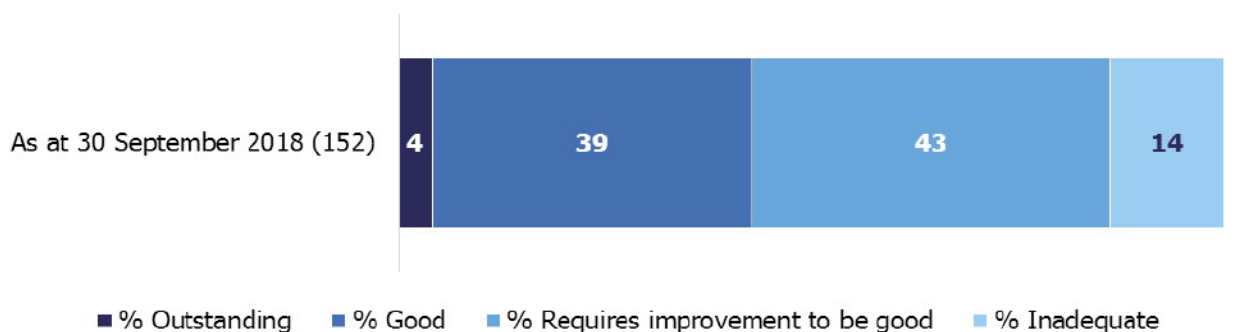
Two LAs are now judged outstanding for help and protection

For the first time, two LAs have been judged outstanding for the children in need of help and protection sub-judgement.

The proportion of all children’s homes judged good or outstanding remains the same as last year

At 30 September 2018, 82% of homes were judged good or outstanding. This was the same picture as at 31 March 2018 and 30 September 2017.

Figure 1: Local authority overall effectiveness at 30 September 2018



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Acknowledgements

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Introduction

This release contains data on all children's homes inspections and local authority (LA) inspections.

Ofsted inspects the 152 LAs in England responsible for ensuring and overseeing the effective delivery of social care services for children. These inspections are of LA services for children who need help and protection, children looked after, and care leavers, under the Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework. This inspection cycle began in January 2018.

Children's homes all receive a full inspection, and certain homes receive an interim inspection, on an annual cycle. Children's homes may receive additional concern-driven inspections.¹ Children's homes are made up of three different sub types of homes:

- Children's homes – these are most of the homes in England and are defined as any home that does not fall within the other two sub types below, that is, is not a residential special school registered as a children's home and is not a secure children's home.
- Residential special school registered as a children's home – these are residential schools which, due to the number of days they look after children, must register as children's homes.
- Secure children's homes.

All children's homes cater for a variety of children and young people with varying difficulties, disabilities or disorders. These include, for example, emotional and/or behavioural difficulties, mental health problems, sensory impairment, and learning difficulties.

Unless otherwise stated, 2017-18 refers to 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. The 'period' referred to throughout is the first six months in 2018-19: 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018.

¹ Ofsted use a risk-based approach to inspecting children's homes. For more information, see the Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF): www.gov.uk/guidance/social-care-common-inspection-framework-sccif-children-s-homes-including-secure-children-s-homes

Main findings

Inspection of LA children’s services

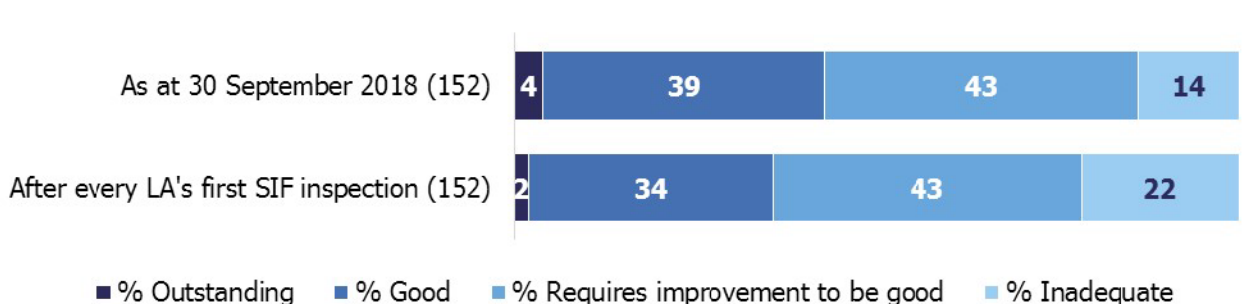
There are approximately 12 million children living in England, of whom, at any one time, just over three per cent are in the social care system (classified as children in need).²

Overall LA effectiveness as at 30 September 2018

The picture for all LAs as at 30 September 2018 has improved, with 43% of LAs now judged to be good or outstanding. After every LA’s first Single Inspection Framework (SIF) inspection, this was 36%.

There was also a fall in the percentage judged inadequate, decreasing to 14% from 22% after every LA’s first SIF.

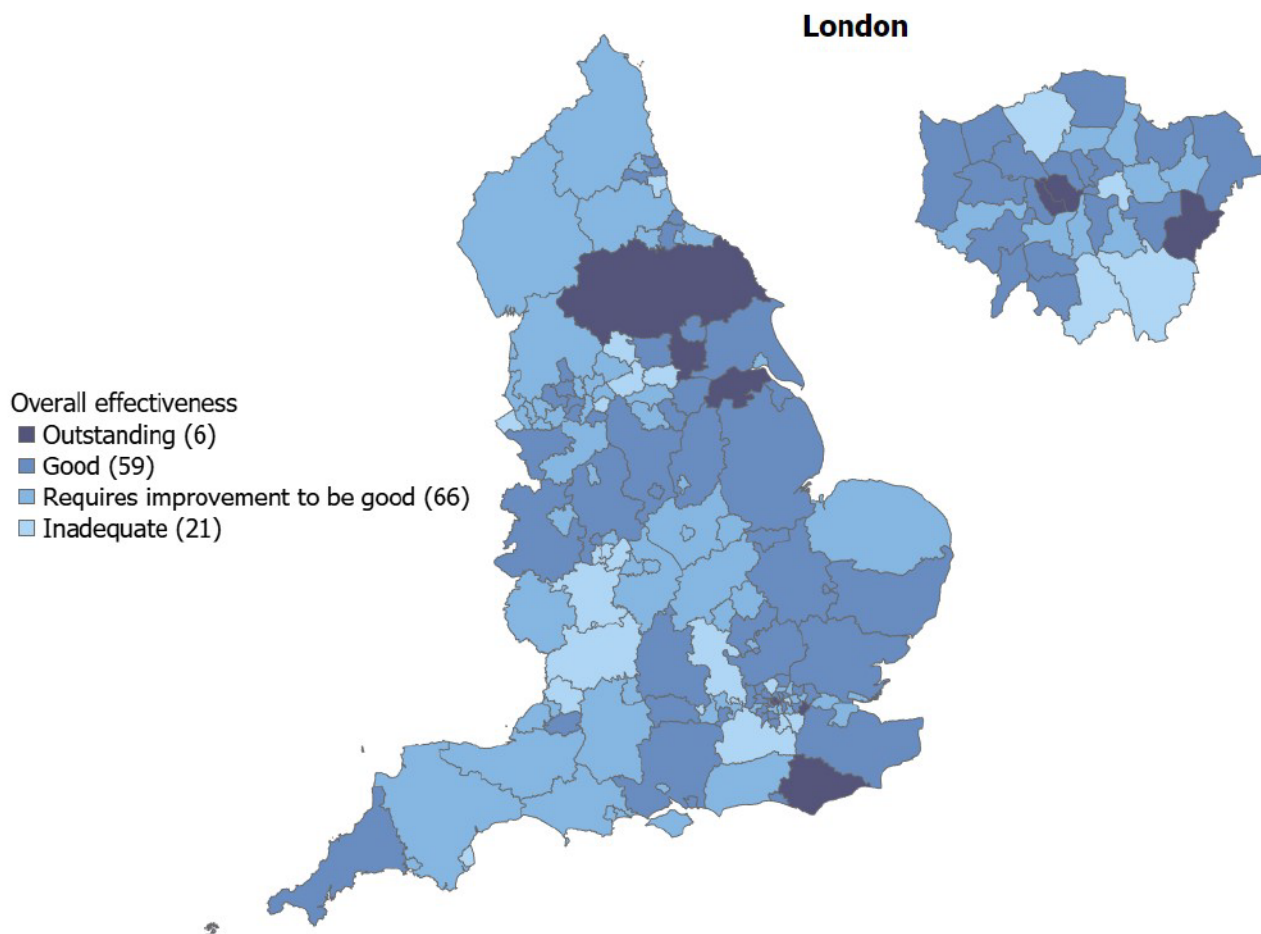
Figure 2: LA overall effectiveness after every LA’s first SIF inspection and at 30 September 2018



² 'Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland', ONS, 2018; www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalescotlandandnorthernireland
 'Characteristics of children in need: 2017 to 2018', DfE, 2018; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2017-to-2018>

As the map below shows, the different inspection judgements are spread across the country.

Figure 3: LA overall effectiveness judgements as at 30 September 2018



Sub-judgements as at 30 September 2018

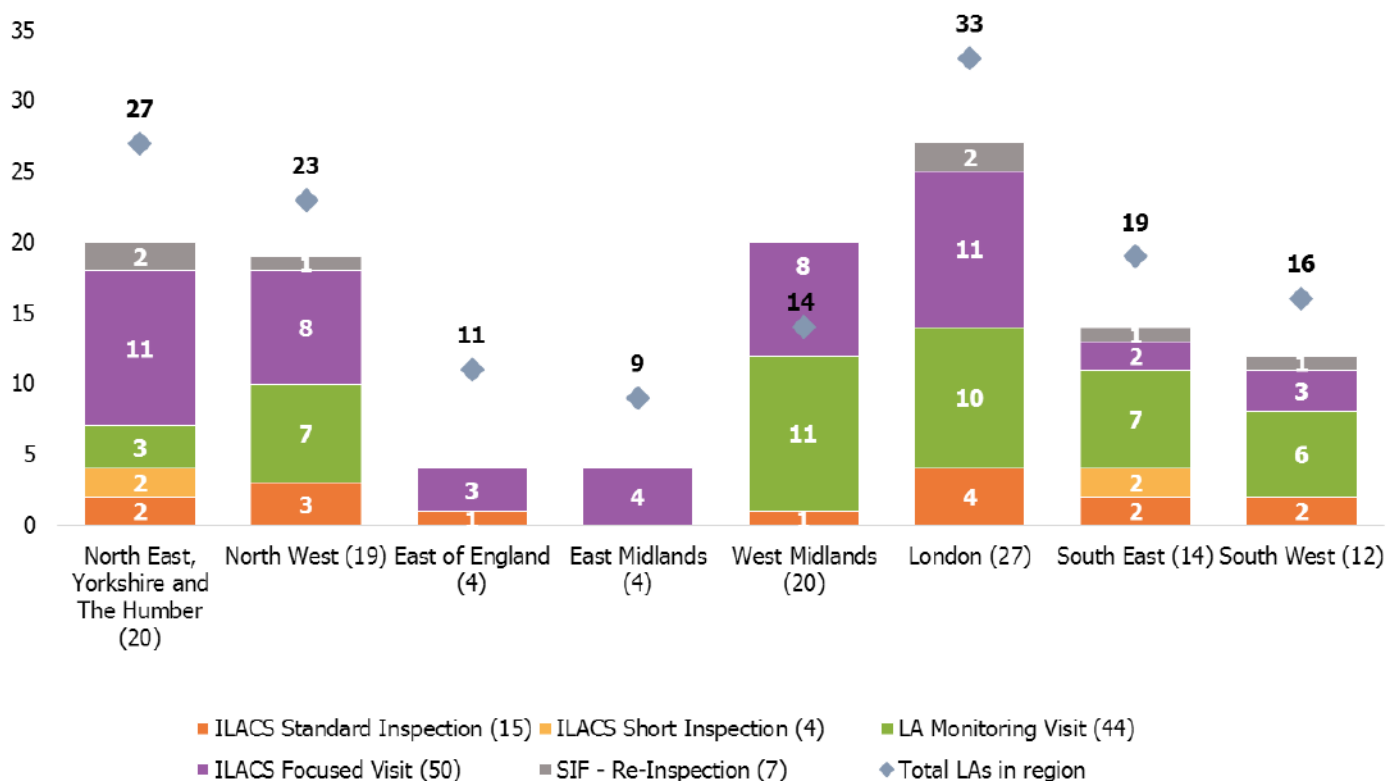
Under the new ILACS programme, children in need of help and protection, and children in care and care leavers, remain comparable judgements to children who need help and protection, and children looked after and achieving permanence in the SIF. For both sub-judgements, the percentage of LAs judged to be good or outstanding has increased, to 32% for help and protection, and 42% for children in care and care leavers. In the sub-judgement of children in need of help and protection, two LAs (Bexley and North Yorkshire) are now judged to be outstanding; this is the first time this judgement has been given in this area.

Inspections of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS)

The ILACS framework, which replaced the SIF programme, has been in place since the beginning of 2018. During that period, Ofsted has visited 91 LAs. These visits included 50

focused and 44 monitoring visits, four short and 15 standard ILACS inspections, and seven SIF re-inspections.

Figure 4: LA visits and inspections, January-September 2018³



ILACS short and standard inspections and visits

Since the ILACS framework came into effect in January 2018, Ofsted has conducted 19 ILACS inspections. The four short inspections were of LAs previously judged good for overall effectiveness, and the 15 standard inspections were of LAs previously judged requires improvement to be good.

Of these 19 LAs: 10 improved at their ILACS inspection; seven retained the same judgement; and two declined, both from requires improvement to be good to inadequate. One of the 10 LAs which improved did so from requires improvement to be good to outstanding (Bexley).

³ Some LAs will have received multiple visits and/or inspections in the period, so the total number of visits/inspections may not reflect the total number of LAs in the region, or the total number of LAs visited/inspected.

Table 1: Change in overall effectiveness from SIF inspection to ILACS inspection

	ILACS overall effectiveness			
	Outstanding (3)	Good (9)	Requires improvement to be good (5)	Inadequate (2)
Good (4)	2	2		
Requires improvement to be good (15)	1	7	5	2
Previous overall effectiveness				
	Improved	No change	Declined	

LA monitoring visits

Since the start of the ILACS framework, Ofsted has carried out 44 monitoring visits. Monitoring visits, which are carried out on a quarterly basis to LAs judged inadequate, are discussed in more detail in Ofsted’s 2017/18 annual report.⁴

ILACS focused visits

Since their introduction under the ILACS framework in January 2018, Ofsted has carried out 50 focused visits. Focused visits are for inspectors to evaluate an aspect of service, a theme, or the experiences of a cohort of children.

The “front door” was a particularly common theme for visits, accounting for 42% (21 LAs). Least common was children in care, accounting for only 4% of visits (two LAs).

Table 2: Theme, aspect of service, or experience of a cohort of children looked at on focused visits, January-September 2018

Area looked at	Number of visits
Front door	21
Children in need/subject to a plan	12
Care leavers	7
Achieving permanence	4
Vulnerable adolescents	4
Children in care	2
Total focused visits	50

⁴ ‘Ofsted annual report 2017/18’, Ofsted, 2018; www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201718-education-childrens-services-and-skills

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people for all children's homes⁵

There are two ways to look at information about the overall experiences and progress of children and young people judgement (overall effectiveness) for all children's homes:

- **State of the nation:** this looks at all providers active on 30 September 2018, and what their most recent inspection judgement was at this date; for the majority of providers, this was their most recent full inspection.⁶ Providers inspected prior to 1 April 2018, but not since, will have their previous judgement included.
- **In year/relevant period:** this looks at all inspections that took place in a set period of time. In this release that period is between 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2018. This will include providers that closed before the end of the period, and for some providers will include more than one inspection.⁷ Some providers will be excluded, as they were not inspected in the period.⁸

State of the nation for all children's homes⁹

On 30 September 2018, 95% of all active children's homes had received a full inspection. One hundred and fourteen newly registered children's homes had not yet been judged as they were newly opened homes; they are excluded from the following analysis.

Most children's homes (82%) had an overall effectiveness judgement of good or outstanding. This was the same picture as at 30 September 2017 and 31 March 2018.

⁵ See Inspection of children's homes framework for inspection from 1 April 2018 for further details on grading inspection findings: www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-childrens-homes-framework

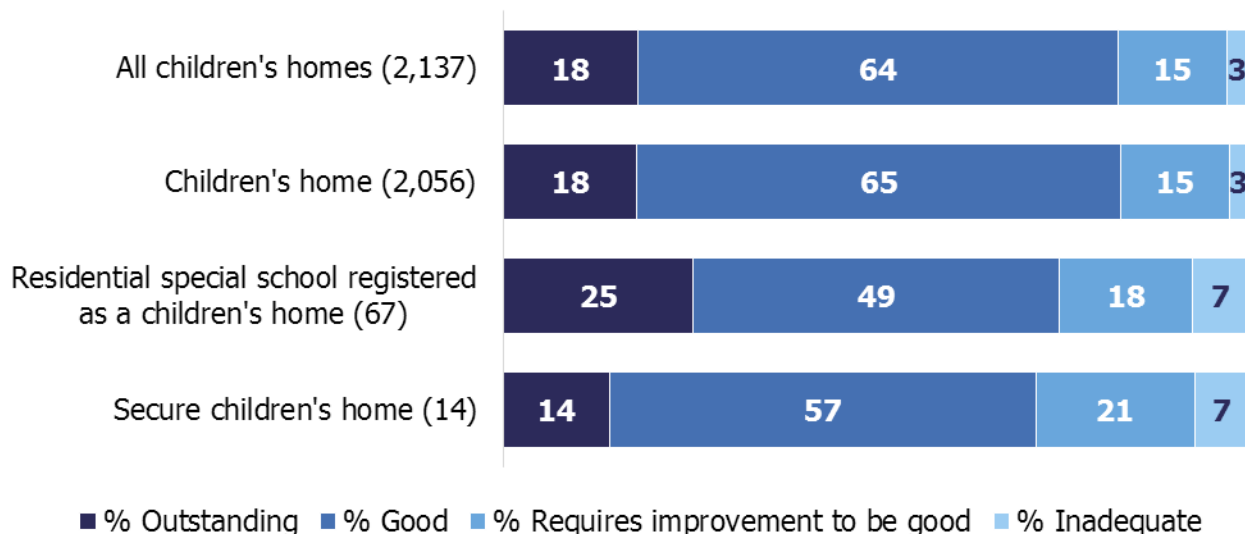
⁶ Three providers received an overall effectiveness judgement at their most recent monitoring inspection. State of the nation analysis includes these homes' monitoring visits as their most recent inspection judgements.

⁷ Homes found at some point to be inadequate, or homes for which concerns were raised, required additional inspections.

⁸ Children's homes are inspected on a 12 month cycle and this release covers the first six months of that period. Some homes will therefore not have been inspected yet. In addition, homes with no children on roll and with no plans to accept children within the three months after the inspection would have taken place were not inspected.

⁹ This is the most recent full inspection the provision had received and is not necessarily from 2017-18.

Figure 5: All children’s homes overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, as at 30 September 2018

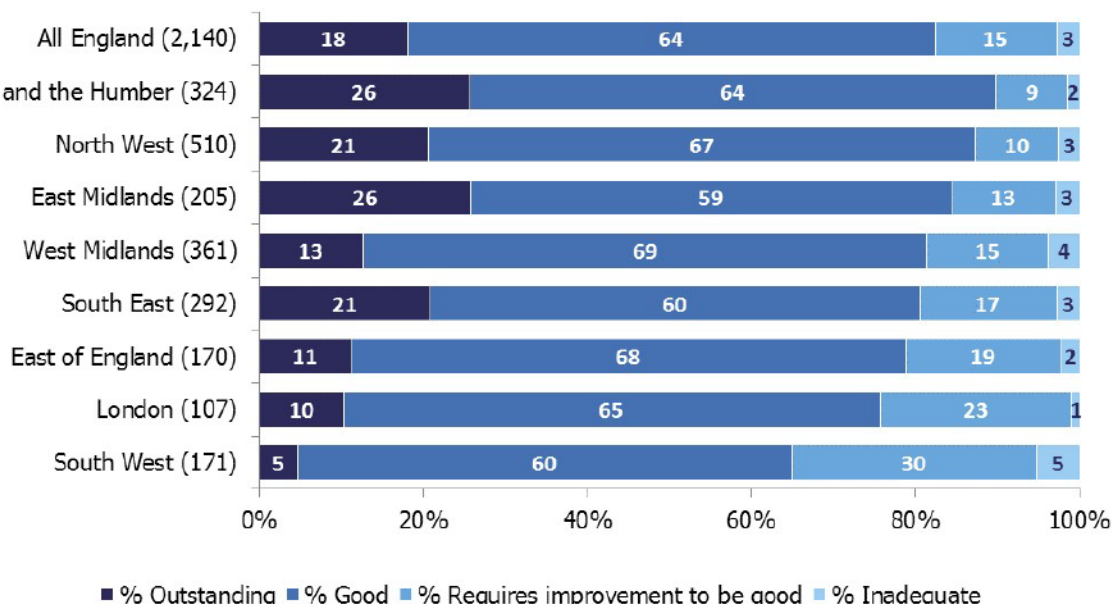


Compared to 30 September 2017, although the overall picture has stayed the same, there have been changes to the state of nation for the three sub types of homes. The proportion of secure children’s homes judged good or outstanding decreased by 14 percentage points due to two homes declining to requires improvement to be good. The proportion of good or outstanding residential schools registered as children’s homes decreased by six percentage points, while the proportion of children’s homes judged good or outstanding increased by one percentage point.

Regional outcomes for all children’s homes

Children’s homes are not spread evenly across the country, with 24% in the North West and 5% in London.

Figure 6: All children’s homes overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, as at 30 September 2018, by region

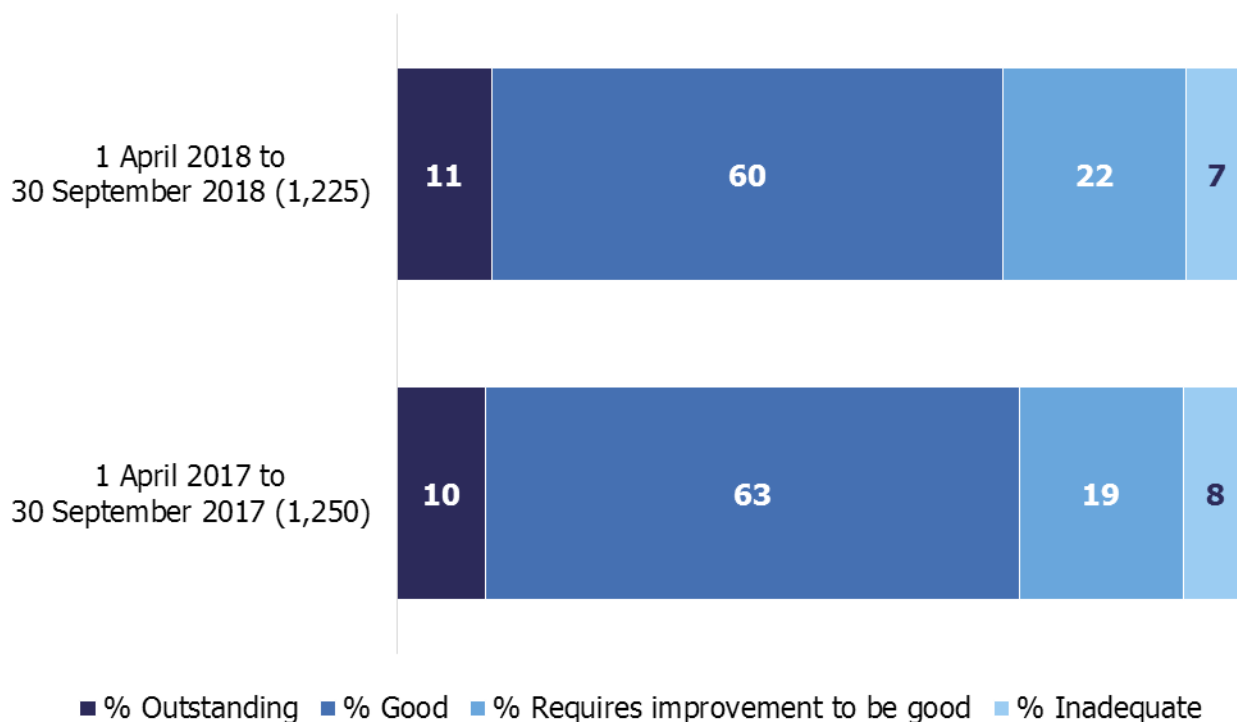


Three regions saw small increases in the percentage of all children’s homes judged good or outstanding since the same date last year, while three regions saw small decreases. The percentage of homes judged good or outstanding in the North West and North East, Yorkshire and the Humber remained the same as last year.

All children’s homes inspections in the period

Between 1 April 2018 and 30 September 2018, there were 1,225 full inspections of all children’s homes.

Figure 7: All children’s homes overall effectiveness, comparing six month periods¹⁰



The percentage of inspections at which the home was judged good or outstanding was 71%; two percentage points lower than in this period last year. The percentage of inspections at which the home was judged inadequate was 7% (90), compared to 8% (96) in the same period last year.

Twenty-nine homes had two full inspections in the six month period; all 29 had been judged inadequate, including each of their sub-judgements, at their first inspection in the period. Most (86%) of these 29 homes improved after re-inspection, with only four homes remaining inadequate.

¹⁰ There were two homes that received overall effectiveness judgements at a monitoring visit. Analysis in the period only includes full inspections, so these monitoring visit overall effectiveness judgements have been excluded from the data.

Overall effectiveness for all children’s homes – change since 2017-18 inspection

Of the 1,196 providers that had a full inspection in the period (1 April to 30 September 2018), 1,115 also had a full inspection in the previous year (1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018).

Table 3: Change to overall effectiveness compared to previous inspection¹¹

	Overall effectiveness in period (1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018)			
	Outstanding (126)	Good (35)	Requires improvement to be good (6)	Inadequate (2)
Outstanding (91)	48	35	6	2
Good (709)	72	460	130	47
Requires improvement to be good (292)	6	176	83	27
Inadequate (23)		13	8	2
Previous overall effectiveness (in 2017-18)				

Improved	No change	Declined
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The proportion of homes judged to have stayed the same was 53%, with 25% of homes improving and 22% declining. Compared to the same period in 2016-17, the proportion of homes that improved was four percentage points higher.

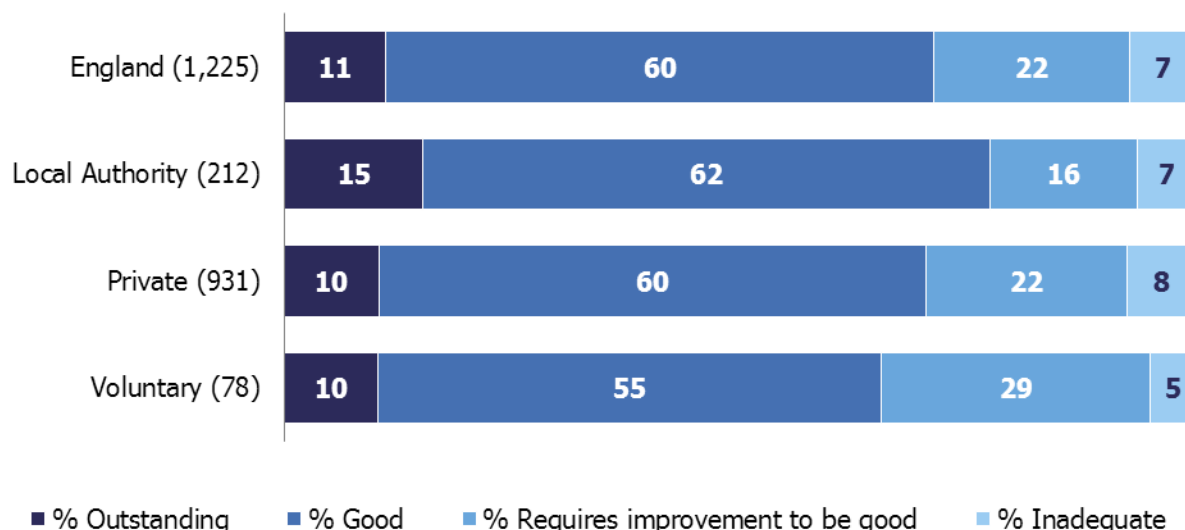
Eighty-six children’s homes were judged inadequate at their first full inspection in 2018-19. Two of these had also been judged inadequate at their most recent full inspection in 2017-18. Twenty seven declined to inadequate from requires improvement to be good, 47 from good, and two from outstanding. The remaining eight homes did not have a full inspection in 2017-18.

¹¹ If the provider had more than one full inspection in 2017-18, the latest full inspection judgement has been used. If the provider has had more than one full inspection in the period (1 April to 30 September 2018), the first full inspection judgement has been used.

Sector data for all children’s homes in period¹²

Compared to this period in the last year, the inspection judgements for local authority and private children’s homes have remained broadly the same. The proportion of voluntary children’s homes judged good or outstanding has declined by 11 percentage points, from 76% to 65%. This is because of the small numbers of voluntary children’s homes inspected in the period.

Figure 8: All children’s homes overall effectiveness, 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018, by sector¹³



Interim inspections for all children’s homes in period

Between 1 April and 30 September 2018 there were 35 interim inspections, of which 26 resulted in a judgement. This compares to 36 interim inspections in the same period last year, of which 15 resulted in a judgement.

¹² Sector data includes all full inspections and monitoring visits that have taken place in the period, so some homes will have more than one inspection included in this analysis.

¹³ Inspection judgements for health authority homes have not been included as a separate entry as there are so few of them (four inspections; two received good judgements and two were requires improvement to be good). They have, though, been included in the England figure.

Revisions to previous release

Revised data covering the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 has been released and can be found on the Ofsted website as part of this release:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/childrens-social-care-statistics.

The revision of statistics relating to 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 from 'provisional' to 'revised' status includes outcomes relating to a further 176 inspections. These consist of an additional 58 full inspections and seven monitoring visits of all provision types, and 21 interim inspections of children's homes. These took place in this period and have been published since 30 April 2018. These additional inspections did not affect the general grade profile across all provider types.

Notes

Ofsted consulted with users in 2014 to seek views on the proposed arrangements for the frequency and content of social care inspection official statistics, which is described in more detail in the accompanying quality and methodology report. Ofsted also has representation at relevant meetings and forums to seek feedback about whether our publications meet user needs, which include regional meetings of performance leads from LAs. Ofsted's participation helps inform about user views, and suggested improvements are taken on board. Ofsted also engages with other organisations including the Department for Education (DfE) and representations from the private and voluntary sectors.

An explanation about key uses of this data, and further contextual information and the arrangements for quality assurance are provided in the accompanying quality and methodology report.

The Quality and Methodology report can be found at the following webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/childrens-social-care-statistics>

Ofsted also publishes data for all remits, including social care, as part of the annual Data View, available here:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/ofsted#!/vizhome/Dataview/Viewregionalperformanceovertime>

Glossary

For a full definition of the terms below, please see the Glossary tab within the underlying data tables.

Children's homes

A children's home is an establishment that provides care and accommodation wholly or mainly for children. Children's homes vary in size and nature, and fulfil a range of purposes to meet the different needs of children and young people.

Residential special schools registered as children's homes

Residential special schools registered as children's homes provide education and accommodation to children resident for more than 295 days per year, including children with very specialist needs.

Sector

'Sector' refers to the type of provider that owns the children's social care provision.

- Academy: These are publicly funded independent schools who are run by trusts.
- Health Authority: These are NHS Trust-run.
- LA: These are public bodies responsible for the children's social care provision.
- Private: These are for-profit organisations mostly with limited company status. These can also be individually owned children's social care provisions and run for profit.
- Voluntary: These are mostly not-for-profit organisations, mainly with charitable status; and individually owned provisions run on a not-for-profit basis.

Secure children's homes

Secure children's homes accommodate children and young people who are remanded or have been sentenced for committing a criminal offence, or whose behaviour is deemed to present a significant threat to their own and others' safety.

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