

Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children's Services

This year Poole is expecting a joint inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services. The inspections are carried out by Ofsted inspectors, the Care Quality Commission and, as needed, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. All inspections contribute to Ofsted's annual rating of children's services, and to the assessment of how well councils are working together with other public bodies to meet the needs of the people they serve.

What to expect

We will be given 10 days notice of the two week inspection. The inspection of safeguarding and looked after children will place a lot of emphasis on evaluating the impact of social work practice and services in improving outcomes. Inspectors will look at safeguarding more widely, examining how effectively agencies are working together to prevent harm and support the safeguarding of children and young people. The inspection will include interviews with key individuals and focus groups; some case file analysis; and, completion of the Care4Me and AfterCare surveys of children in care. It will also look at the impact of the Children's Trust and the Local Children's Safeguarding Board and the Corporate Parenting Board.

Focus

The focus of the inspection and subsequent report will, in the case of both safeguarding and looked after children, will be on;

Overall effectiveness and capacity to improve.

It will then cover:

- **Leadership and management**
 - Ambition and prioritisation
 - Evaluation, including performance management, quality assurance and workforce development
 - User engagement
 - Partnerships
 - Equality and diversity
 - Value for money

- **Quality of provision**

- Service responsiveness, including complaints
- Assessment and direct work with children and families
- Case planning, reviews and recording
- In the case of safeguarding it will also cover.

- **The effectiveness of services**

- In taking reasonable steps to ensure that children and young people are safe and also that they feel safe.

Preparation for the Inspection

To help prepare for the Inspection a number of activities are taking place;

- A multi-agency steering group has been set up
- Key managers will be auditing their services to identify strengths and weaknesses.
- Evidence of good practice will be gathered.
- Documents that will be needed by inspectors will be brought together and collated.
- Planning around the practical running of the inspection is taking place.

In addition, there will ongoing communication about the inspection;

- General information about the inspection will be available on the Children's Trust Website www.poolechildrenstrust.org.uk.
- 'Top Tips'- in terms of good practice will also be on the website.
- Specific briefings will take place with individuals and groups.

Notification will be sent out by email to managers when an inspection date is announced.