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Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education Decision Meeting
Subject:	Inspection of Portsmouth City Council Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)
Date of meeting:	20 July 2023
Report by:	Sarah Daly (Director Children, Families and Education)
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

1.1 For Members to receive the Ofsted inspection report.

2. Purpose

2.1 This report is to update Members on the outcome of the Ofsted ILACS inspection undertaken between 15 and 19 May 2023.

3. Background

3.1 The ILACS inspections by Ofsted focus on the effectiveness of local authority children's services and arrangements in the following areas:

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- The experience and progress of children in care
- The experience and progress of care leavers
- Overall effectiveness

3.2 Portsmouth's children's services were last inspected in October 2018, when they were judged to be 'Good'. We were notified of the ILAC inspection on 5 May and the off-site week commenced at this time. During this week we uploaded over 200 documents (including a self assessment of the service), submitted a significant amount of child level data, produced audit reports of case work and inspector interviews commenced. The onsite week commenced on 15 May and completed on 19 May. During that period of time there were up to 6 Ofsted inspectors in the service. The inspectors came and sat alongside practitioners



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and reviewed their children's records with them, they met with children and families and spoke with key partner agencies.

3.3 The outcome judgements from the inspection are as follows:

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families - **Good**
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection - **Outstanding**
- The experiences and progress of children in care - **Good**
- The experiences and progress of care leavers - **Requires Improvement to be Good**
- Overall effectiveness - **Good**

3.4 In summary the report states that most children in Portsmouth receive a good service, and for some, it is outstanding. Services for care-experienced young people are less well developed. Leaders and managers are committed to the ongoing improvement of services for children and families. They have worked with partner agencies to deliver transformation, particularly within the early help and family safeguarding teams, which stand out as areas of strong practice, delivering excellent experiences and progress for children.

3.5 The experiences and progress of care leavers was identified as an area that needs improvement to be good. Ofsted found that many care-experienced young people do make good progress in many aspects of their lives and receive high-quality support from committed and caring personal advisers, but that services for care-experienced young people are less well developed than in other areas of children's services.

3.6 However, the report reflects that the council is committed to the ongoing improvement of services for children and families and that we have a clearly defined improvement plan in place. As a directorate, we are already working hard to address areas identified as needing improvement, so that we can meet the same the high standards achieved across Portsmouth's children's services.

3.7 Please see attached the full Ofsted report which was published on 3 July 2023.

Signed by Sarah Daly, Director, Children, Families and Education.



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Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location