Dear Colleague

Lancashire County Council Children and Young People's Services
Ofsted report of Safeguarding and Looked After Children

Good – with outstanding features

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, we have now been officially rated as Good with Outstanding features for our services which protect children, including children looked after.

Most importantly Ofsted's report showed that children and young people in Lancashire 'are safe and feel safe' which is what everyone who works for and with our directorate and throughout the county council work so hard to achieve every day.

The Joint Area review in 2008 judged the county council as Adequate for Safeguarding and Inadequate for Looked After Children, so we have come a long way in our improvement journey since then.

We also ensure excellent engagement and participation opportunities for young people and through our Children and Young People's Trust arrangements are working well with our partners.

The 43-page report that has now been published examines services which have a responsibility for keeping children safe and how looked-after children are cared for and supported to get the most out of life, including when they leave care.

The report suggests a number of areas for improvement which require action within three or six months, and which mainly concern administrative matters and ensuring capacity can meet demand. Only two actions are demanded on an immediate basis: reviewing safeguarding arrangements for children and young people within Morecambe Bay Hospitals Trust at Lancaster Royal Infirmary, and within out-of-hours, walk-in and A&E health services across Lancashire. We are already working with our partners to ensure that we respond appropriately to the issues raised.

You can read the full report on the Ofsted website by clicking here [http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/lancashire](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/lancashire) under Safeguarding and looked after children inspection

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The Care Quality Commission who inspected alongside Ofsted, issue a separate and more detailed report on health services for children and young people and this is due to be published later this month.

This could not have been achieved without the amazing work done every single day by colleagues in the directorate, schools and our partners for the Children and Young People and their families in Lancashire.

Helen Denton

Executive Director for Children & Young People