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Add recipient details (local authority to complete)

To the children and young people in Bristol

Inspection of children's services

In January, Ofsted inspectors visited your area. They looked at children and young people's experiences of the help, protection and care given to them by workers at the local authority. They also looked at what leaders at the local authority do to make these services better.

We have asked the workers at the local authority to share this letter with you. It tells you the main things that inspectors found. There is a more detailed report on our website that you can read if you want to.

What grades did inspectors give the local authority?

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

What did the inspectors find

- The councils leaders have made very real improvements in some areas since the previous inspection, such as the quality of support to children in care and for care leavers. Likewise, children who arrive in Bristol as unaccompanied asylum seekers benefit from effective support. However, children, young people and their families do not yet receive consistently good services in Bristol and there is more to be done to make sure that this is the case.
- Most children and young people have good relationships with social workers who know them well. When social workers meet with children and young people, they take time to understand what life is like and help make things better. Social workers talked proudly and with care about the children and young people they work with.
- Social workers plan carefully for children and young people who are not able to live in their own families. They work hard to find safe and stable homes, with people who love and care for them.
- Senior leaders in the council are aware that initial health assessments for children coming into care are often delayed. This makes it less likely that health problems will always be spotted as quickly as they could be. However, review health assessments are usually quicker.
- Some children and young people go to meetings that are organised so that they can share their views on how to make things better for children in Bristol. Children and young people involved in these groups feel listened to and valued.
- A few young people who may have been homeless do not benefit from joint assessments carried out by social workers and housing staff. The council's leaders are working with housing to change this and to make sure that they have appropriate places to live as soon as possible.
- Most care experienced young adults are very well supported by personal advisers and support workers who know them well, understand their needs and help them to make good progress in their lives as they move into adulthood. Personal advisors keep in touch and visit regularly.
- The care and commitment shown by personal advisers and support workers who provide individualised support to care experienced young adults is visible and is a real strength.
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people benefit from the knowledge and expertise of a specialist team. This helps them to navigate the complexities and challenges of being in a new country. In addition, support

groups such as the 'Wednesday' group, provide support and advice that helps children and young people come together and share their experiences.

Yours faithfully

Tracey Ledder

Lead inspector
His Majesty's Inspector