

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: JUNE 2023

SUBJECT OF REPORT: OFSTED INSPECTION UPDATE

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: BECKY HOPKINS – ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SUPPORT & SAFEGUARDING**

KEY DECISION: NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel is asked to note outcome of the Ofsted Inspection March 2023 and the identified areas for improvement and plan.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides a summary of the findings from the Ofsted inspection of North Somerset Children's Services in March 2023.

Please find below a link to the Ofsted report:

[LA NAME - standard-short inspection report - INSPECTION DATE \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

(The full web address is <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-05/Ofsted%20inspection%20report%20-%20North%20Somerset%20children%27s%20services%20-%202023.pdf>)

The overall outcome of the inspection was that the service was judged Requires Improvement to be Good.

2. POLICY

N/A

3. DETAILS

The inspection found progress in the following key areas:

- A comprehensive early help offer
- A much improved front door including the introduction of the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) in January 2023 which has improved the quality of response for children at the front door
- The relationship-based practice model is becoming more embedded and progressively better understood by staff
- Quality and oversight of pre-proceedings work
- Quality Assurance Systems are significantly improved
- Performance information systems are significantly improved
- Permanence planning arrangements for children, particularly where adoption is the plan
- A strengthened whole council approach to corporate parenting
- The Mockingbird fostering hub model supporting children and foster carers resulting in more stable homes for children in care
- Work with partners in accommodating and supporting the growing number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

The inspectors judged the service provided to care leavers in North Somerset as Good.

The inspectors also reported that an appropriate service-wide plan is in place, aimed at securing the improvements needed and that leaders have a strong understanding of the key priorities which need to be focused on to improve services for children and their families in North Somerset.

The inspectors reported that not all areas of improvement identified at the last inspection in March 2020 have been addressed and that progress has not been sufficient.

The key areas for improvement identified, and where practice is too variable, were:

1. Effectiveness of management oversight and supervision
2. Identification and response to significant and chronic risk
3. Frequency and quality of visits
4. Timeliness and quality of assessment
5. Effectiveness of children's Plans
6. Evidencing progress and change for children

The service is in the process of updating the Service Plan to ensure all of the areas for improvement are fully addressed. This will be submitted to Ofsted in August 2023.

4. CONSULTATION

The directorate consults with children, young people and their families on an individual basis alongside through more formal consultation fora. Three key opportunities in regard to co-production and service improvement are provided through the Corporate Parenting Panel, the SEND Council and the Community of Practice for SEND services. Additionally there is considerable consultation and co-design across our Family Wellbeing Service.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a growth proposal being prepared which identifies the resource required to enable the service to continue the progress made to date and improve practice and move from Requires Improvement to be Good to a service which is judged Good/Outstanding.

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

AUTHORS

Sheila Smith – Director of Children’s Services

Becky Hopkins – Assistant Director, Children’s Support and Safeguarding

Pip Hesketh – Assistant Director, Education Inclusion

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Powerpoint – Ofsted Feedback