Improving Inspection
Improving Safeguarding

Anne Orton HMI

8th Annual Safeguarding Children Forum

10 June 2010

Improved Inspection for Improved Outcomes

- Unannounced inspections of contact, referral and assessment arrangements
- A three year programme of full inspections of safeguarding and looked after children services
- New framework for school inspection introduced September 2009
- Safeguarding as a core area for judgement in all Ofsted's work
- Using serious case reviews to drive learning

Unannounced Inspections of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements

- Focused on front line practice
- Engaging with front line workers
- Highlighting areas for immediate action

Unannounced Inspections of Contact, Referral, and Assessment Arrangements

Ofsted

'Give me a rigorous unannounced inspection of our practice and day. The inspection is focused – not on those softer areas like leadership or capacity, nor is it just about process and outputs. It's about the quality of our social care on the ground.'

DCS, Local Government Chronicle, 22nd October 2009

Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspections

- 24 completed to date, 21 reports published
- Evidence gathered and judgements made on:
  - leadership and management
  - quality of provision
  - outcomes for children and young people

Safeguarding and Looked After Children Inspections

Ofsted

'The process focused on outcomes for children and young people and was very open with opportunities for regular dialogue between staff and inspectors.'

DCS, Community Care, 10th August 2009

Safeguarding and Looked after Children Inspections

- Framework published in May 2009
- Inspections commenced in June 2009 and finish in June 2012
- All 152 councils will be subject to an inspection over this 3 year period
- Reports on safeguarding and child protection arrangements across the council and partner agencies/LSCB
- Reports on services, corporate parenting and outcomes for looked after children
- Two weeks of fieldwork – Lead Inspector plus 2 or 3 Ofsted HMIs and a CQC inspector

Safeguarding and Looked after Children Headlines

- 21 inspection reports published
- Mix of ordinary programme and those brought forward due to unannounced CRA inspection
- 6 councils 'good' in both
- 7 councils 'inadequate' in safeguarding but majority adequate or better
- More LAC 'good' than safeguarding
- Many examples of good practice

Safeguarding
Summary of inspection judgements to date

	Safeguarding Overall Effectiveness	Safeguarding Capacity for Improvement
Outstanding	-	2
Good	7	7
Adequate	7	8
Inadequate	7	4
Total	21	21

Safeguarding
Summary of inspection judgements to date -2

Regions (total)	Safeguarding Overall Effectiveness Inadequate	Safeguarding Overall Effectiveness Good or better
South (9)	1	5
Midlands (5)	3	-
North (7)	3	2
Total (21)	7	7

Key weaknesses in safeguarding identified in published inspection reports

Ofsted

- Still evidence that the 'basics' are not done consistently – recording, summaries, chronologies, analysis
- Inconsistencies in decisions and practice – thresholds not clear or consistently applied
- Children and young people not consulted/seen/involved
- Workforce pressures not managed – generate pressures
- Poor recording systems – IT weaknesses

Ofsted

Examples of good practice in safeguarding

- Strong leadership in all agencies – social care, health, police
- Active management of work pressures
- Effective workforce strategy
- Value for money
- CAF well embedded and actively used by all agencies – quicker responses and reduced pressure on social work
- Range of general and specialist services

Ofsted

What distinguishes *good* from *satisfactory*?

- Voice of child routinely informs case planning
- Strong partnerships at strategic and operational levels
- Effective procedures which are regularly reviewed
- Response times are consistently good
- Reflective practice and plans based on good analysis
- Good leadership and management oversight
- Good range of supportive and preventative services - universal and specialist
- Strong performance management and quality assurance arrangements
- Workforce strategy – good recruitment and retention

Looked after children: summary of inspection judgements to date

	LAC Overall Effectiveness	LAC Capacity for Improvement
Outstanding	-	1
Good	11	12
Adequate	9	7
Inadequate	1	1
Total	21	21

Looked after children: summary of inspection judgements to date -2

Regions (Total)	LAC Overall Effectiveness Inadequate	LAC Overall Effectiveness Good or better
South (9)	1	6
Midlands (5)	-	1
Adequate (7)	-	4
Total (21)	1	11

Key weaknesses in LAC services identified in published inspection reports

- Thresholds for entry into the care system not consistently applied or monitored
- Poor placement stability
- Lack of capacity in fostering resources which can result in poor matching
- Limited/poor access to resources and support to enable children and young people to remain within their families
- Poor/limited access to CAMHS services

Key weaknesses in LAC services identified in published inspection reports

Ofsted

- Monitoring of quality and outcomes for out of authority placements is not sufficiently developed
- Care planning not fully effective and timely
- Weakness in quality of assessment, analysis and planning - not always outcome focussed, not specific enough in identifying risks and needs and
- Insufficient challenge during the review process

Ofsted

Examples of good practice in LAC services

- Creative use of personal education allowances
- Virtual Schools having a positive impact
- Specialist fostering & high quality residential provision
- Care closer to home
- Children in Care Councils and direct impact by CYP on service delivery and strategic planning

Ofsted

Examples of good practice in LAC services

- Imaginative services to older young people e.g. basing LAC nurse in a very popular resource centre.
- Looked after children contribute to training and staff selection
- Reviews of educational and care plans for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities held at same time
- Emerging community languages continuously monitored - leaflets and materials available in the most common languages - support children on the edge of care

The Framework for School Inspection: September 2009

If a school is judged to be inadequate in the effectiveness of its safeguarding arrangements, its overall effectiveness is likely to be judged inadequate.

The Framework for School Inspection: September 2009

- This is about:
  - clear policies, strategies and procedures
  - children being encouraged and enabled to report concerns
  - up-to-date, high quality and appropriate training
  - effective inter-agency working

The Framework for School Inspection: September 2009

- This is NOT about:
  - minor administrative errors
  - footpaths running through playing fields
  - measuring the height of fences
  - offering inspectors coffee before their identities have been checked

Outstanding school safeguarding in practice (case study)

An outstanding primary school

- Strong culture of partnership with all local agencies
- All safeguarding provision viewed from the perspective of the learners. CYP know who they can turn to if they have an issue of concern and see the school as a haven
- Parents' views sought regularly and any issues raised dealt with promptly and effectively
- Robust risk assessment of vulnerable pupils and vulnerable situations
- Yet open and welcoming school which uses CRB checks positively and as a route to other opportunities for volunteers/helpers

Workforce

Ofsted

'Ofsted … should take immediate action to ensure their staff have the appropriate skills, expertise and capacity to inspect. Those Ofsted inspectors responsible or inspecting child protection should have direct experience of child protection work.'

The Protection of Children in England:
a progress report – Recommendation 38

Workforce

- All safeguarding inspections are undertaken by inspectors who are professionally qualified in social work and highly experienced in child protection
- Workforce requirements reviewed and need for additional capacity identified
- Successful programme of new recruitment
- Launch of 'peer inspector' programme

Ofsted

Serious Case Reviews

'Ofsted should focus their evaluation of serious case reviews on the depth of learning a review has provided and the quality of recommendations it has made to protect children.'

The Protection of Children in England:
a progress report – Recommendation 42

Serious Case Reviews

- Revised framework to be published for consultation in the very near future
- 'The overriding function of both the conduct and the evaluation of serious case reviews is to improve the protection of children in the future, both locally and nationally.'

So how does inspection support improvement?

- By making clear and concrete recommendations for improvement, based on evidence
- By identifying and disseminating best practice
- By highlighting areas for improvement and areas for priority action
- By monitoring improvement over time