

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CHILDREN IN NEED AND CHILD PROTECTION - OFSTED FEEDBACK

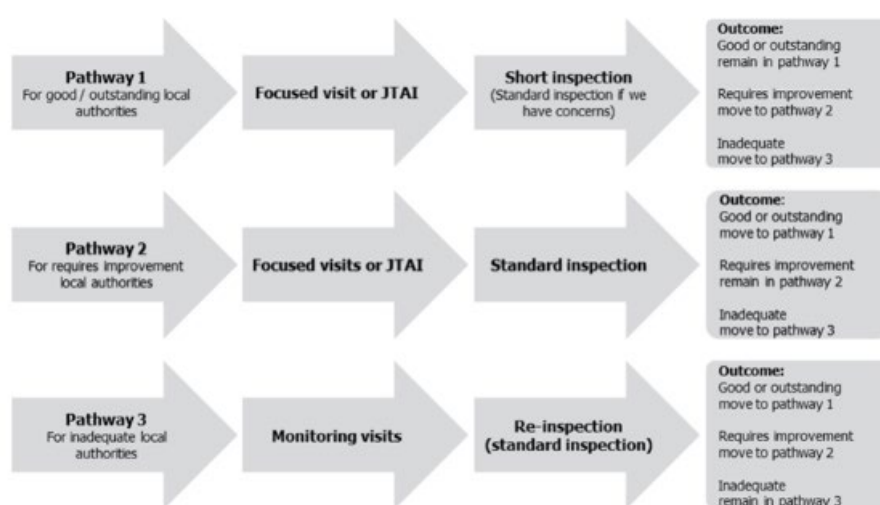
1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide feedback following the Ofsted focused visit regarding Children in Need and Child Protection in Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 Ofsted recently undertook a focused visit regarding services provided for Children In Need and Child Protection. Focused visits evaluate an aspect of service, a theme or the experiences of a cohort of children. HMI carry out these visits under section 136(2) of the Education Inspections Act 2006. Usually, 2 inspectors will carry out 2 days of fieldwork contained within one week. Focused visits will include some or all of the same inspection activity as a standard or short inspection.
- 2.2 The graphic below (extracted from the current ILACS framework) shows the type of inspection activity undertaken by Ofsted as determined by a local authority existing graded judgement. It is important to note that SEND inspection activity is described in a specific SEND inspection framework.

Figure 2. The proportionate inspection pathways for ILACS



2.3 The Ofsted letter setting out its findings is due to be published by Ofsted on 29th November 2023. Feedback on the findings will be provided at the meeting.

2.4 Children's services have now received a JTAI inspection and Focused Visit in 2023 and therefore anticipate that the next Ofsted visit will be a short inspection of the whole service as described in the pathway for local authorities judged to be Outstanding.

3. Current Position

3.1 Jill Colbert (Director of Children's Services) will be in attendance to report on the feedback received.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.

5 Background Papers

Link to the 2023 updated ILACS framework:

[Inspecting local authority children's services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-local-authority-childrens-services)