

9 December 2009

Mr Chris Pratt
Chief Executive of Children and Young Peoples Services
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Trafford Town Hall
Talbot Road
Stretford
Manchester
Lancashire
M32 0TH

Dear Mr Pratt

Children's services annual rating

Ofsted guidance published in May 2009 explained that the annual rating would derive from a new performance profile of the quality of services and outcomes for children and young people in each local area. This profile includes findings from across Ofsted's inspection and regulation of services and settings for which the council has strategic or operational responsibilities, either alone or in partnership with others, together with data from the relevant *Every Child Matters* indicators in the new National Indicator Set (NIS).

In considering the evidence in the profile to determine the children's services rating for 2009 it has become clear that the continuing gaps in the data are significant, particularly those relating to aspects of social care and services for Looked After Children. Ofsted has decided therefore to use 2009 as a transitional year easing into the full application of the new system in 2010. As a consequence, although the performance profile remains central to Ofsted's rating, we have interpreted the performance bands with flexibility and exercised professional judgement with caution.

The annual rating derives from a four point scale:

4	Performs excellently	An organisation that significantly exceeds minimum requirements
3	Performs well	An organisation that exceeds minimum requirements
2	Performs adequately	An organisation that meets only minimum requirements
1	Performs poorly	An organisation that does not meet minimum requirements

Within each level there will be differing standards of provision. For example, a rating of 'performs excellently' does not mean all aspects of provision are perfect. Similarly, a rating of 'performs poorly' does not mean there are no adequate or even good aspects.



Children's services rating 2009

Children's services rating	Performs well (3)
-----------------------------------	--------------------------

Children's services in Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council perform well.

The overall effectiveness of a majority of inspected and regulated services and settings is good or better. A higher proportion of primary and secondary schools are good or better than is the case nationally and in similar areas; fewer are inadequate. Provision for very young children is good; all of the nursery schools are good or outstanding. Childminding is good and most childcare settings are satisfactory overall. The local authority fostering and adoption services are good but private fostering is inadequate. Half of the children's homes are good and the rest are satisfactory.

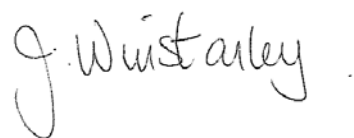
Judgements on staying safe are all good or better in all settings with the exception of private fostering, and are good or better in enjoying and achieving except for the pupil referral unit where they are satisfactory. There has been one serious case review which was judged adequate. A large majority of indicators in the national indicator set are in line with or above the performance of similar areas. Under staying safe performance is above or in line with similar areas apart from the stability of placement for looked after children.

Outcomes for some other young people whose circumstances make them vulnerable are below both national figures and in comparison with similar areas. The achievement gap at Key Stage 4 for those young people with special educational needs is wider than in some similar areas. A larger proportion of young people receive a custodial sentence than in similar areas.

A smaller proportion of young people leaving care are in training, education or employment than the national average and in similar areas.

The children's services rating is provided for the purpose of section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The rating of local authority children's services will contribute significantly to the managing performance theme of each local authority's Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) organisational assessment and therefore to the score for each local authority overall.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juliet Winstanley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Juliet Winstanley
Divisional Manager, CAA