

9 December 2009

Mrs Alison Michalska
Director of Children, Family and Adult Services
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
County Hall
Cross Street
Beverley
East Riding of Yorkshire
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Dear Mrs Michalska

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)
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Children's services in East Riding of Yorkshire Council perform well.

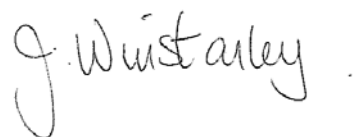
The overall effectiveness of a large majority of inspected and regulated services and settings is good or better. Performance in nursery schools, primary schools and special schools is above that found in similar areas and nationally. However, the overall performance in secondary schools, school sixth forms and pupil referral units is below comparators. The overall effectiveness of childminders is above that found nationally and in similar areas; for childcare settings it is above that found nationally. Judgements for staying safe and enjoying and achieving in inspected services are good or better in the very large majority of cases.

Provision for children and young people whose circumstances make them more vulnerable is generally good. This is evident in the very good performance of both the local authority's fostering and adoption service and the private fostering arrangements. The three special schools are all judged to be good. Performance in the pupil referral units is not as strong with one judged good and one adequate. The two children's homes also show mixed outcomes with one judged to be inadequate and the other good for overall effectiveness.

Performance against the very large majority of national indicators is at least in line with similar areas and national figures. This is also true for the indicators relating to staying safe. However, there is a notable difference in the indicators for enjoying and achieving where only a majority of indicators are at least in line with similar areas and a large majority at least in line with national figures. There are some achievement gaps evident at both ages 11 and 16 for those whose circumstances make them more vulnerable. There has been a good reduction in the number of primary schools that do not meet the minimum standards expected by the government at the age of 11

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



Juliet Winstanley
Divisional Manager, CAA