

9 December 2009

Mr Colin Green
Director of Children, Learning and Young People
Coventry City Council
CC1/238
Civic Centre 1
Earl Street
Coventry, CV1 5RS

Dear Mr Green

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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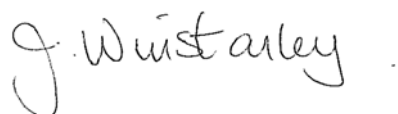
Children's services in Coventry City Council perform well.

The overall effectiveness of the large majority of inspected and regulated services and settings in Coventry is good or better. Very young children receive a strong start within generally good care and education settings, although the percentage of childminder settings judged good or better is smaller than in similar areas. Although only half of primary schools are judged to be good or better, three quarters of secondary schools and school sixth forms are judged to be at least good in inspection. In the vast majority of inspected and regulated settings, judgements for staying safe and enjoying and achieving are good when compared to similar areas and those found nationally, and none are inadequate.

The quality of provision for children and young people whose circumstances make them vulnerable is very good, with all eight special schools and four of five pupil referral units being judged as good or better. All three children's homes were judged to be good and the local authority fostering service was judged to be outstanding in their most recent inspection.

Performance against the large majority of national indicators, including those for staying safe and enjoying and achieving, compares well to the average performance in similar areas. However, few indicators demonstrate performance that is better than in similar areas or seen nationally. The gap in achievement between those children and young people whose circumstances make them vulnerable and their peers is in line with similar areas and the gap nationally and is closing.

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.



Juliet Winstanley
Divisional Manager, CAA