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Mr Peter Lewis
Director of the Children and Young People's Service
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The Children and Young People's Service
3rd Floor, 48 Station Road
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Dear Mr Lewis

Annual children's services assessment

Ofsted guidance published in April 2011 explains that the annual assessment of children's services is derived from the performance profile of the quality of services for children and young people in each local area. This performance profile includes findings from across Ofsted's inspection and regulation of services and settings for which the local authority has strategic or operational responsibilities, either alone or in partnership with others, together with other published data.

In reaching the assessment of children's services, Ofsted has taken account of inspection outcomes including the arrangements for making sure children are safe and stay safe and performance against similar authorities and/or national measures. More weight has been given to the outcomes of Ofsted's inspections and regulatory visits (Blocks A and B in the performance profile).

The annual assessment 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, an assessment of 'performs excellently' does not mean all aspects of provision are perfect. Similarly, an assessment of 'performs poorly' does not mean there are no adequate or even good aspects. As in 2010, while the performance profile remains central to Ofsted's assessment, meeting or not meeting the minimum requirements alone does not define the grade. The assessment has involved the application of inspector judgement.

London Borough of Haringey children's services assessment 2011

Children's services assessment	Performs adequately (2)
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Children's services in the London Borough of Haringey perform adequately, as in 2010. The majority of services, settings and institutions are good or better overall and help children and young people to stay safe. The large majority are good at ensuring they enjoy their learning and achieve well. The areas of strength and areas for development are broadly the same as last year, although the overall quality of early years and childcare provision for the youngest children is showing improvement.

In January 2011 an inspection of safeguarding and services for looked after children judged the overall effectiveness of both services in Haringey as adequate with good capacity for improvement. This represents significant and sustained improvement in safeguarding in the borough since 2009.

Strengths

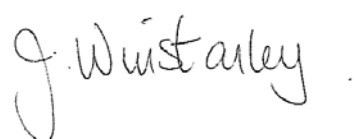
- The overall effectiveness of registered early years and childcare provision is now adequate as over half of all provision is good or better, which is an improvement on last year. There is less inadequate provision than in 2010. Five children's centres have been inspected so far; four of these are good and one is satisfactory. All have effective policies and procedures and work well with key agencies to safeguard children.
- As last year, the overall quality of the local authority's special schools for children and young people with additional needs is better than found in similar areas and nationally. Of the four schools, two are outstanding and two are good.
- The proportion of young people gaining level 2 and level 3 qualifications by the age of 19 is improving year on year and at a faster pace than found elsewhere. Performance is better than found in similar areas. The attainment of the high numbers of these young people from low-income families shows a trend of improvement and is in line with similar areas and above the national average.
- Educational outcomes for looked after children and young people are good. At the age of 16 Key Stage 4 results for looked after children continue to improve and performance is better than in similar areas and found nationally for this group of young people. The strong support and wide range of activities provided by the virtual school make a good contribution to raising achievement, enjoyment and participation.
- Evidence from monitoring visits shows that the local authority provides effective and well targeted support to drive improvement in the small number of schools currently in an Ofsted category of concern.

Areas for further improvement

- Despite the large majority of nursery schools and Early Years Foundation Stage provision in primary schools being good or better, the proportion of five-year-olds achieving a good level of development in 2010 is below similar areas and the national average. Performance is not showing clear signs of improvement and is not keeping pace with elsewhere. Children from low-income families also achieve less well than their peers in similar areas and nationally at this age. However, provisional data show a significant improvement in achievement in 2011 for all five-year-olds, including those from low-income families.
- Although the majority of schools are at least good, over a third of both primary and secondary schools in the borough are no better than satisfactory. This means that the borough has a lower proportion of good schools than is average in similar areas and across the country as a whole. The two pupil referral units are satisfactory as they were last year.
- In 2010, test results for 11-year-olds were in line with national and similar area averages. However, provisional data show a significant fall in 2011.
- Despite a continuous trend of improvement, the proportion of young people gaining five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics is significantly lower than found elsewhere. However, local data show a good improvement in 2011, bringing Haringey's performance closer to the national average.
- A third of young people sitting GCSEs at the age of 16 in Haringey are from Black communities. The attainment of these young people, although improving each year, remained lower than the average found in similar areas and nationally in 2010. The achievement gap between Black young people and their peers in Haringey has gradually widened since 2007. However, local data show improved results in 2011.
- The overall effectiveness of the local authority's children's homes is below that found in similar areas and nationally, with two currently inadequate and one satisfactory. Introducing effective systems for monitoring the provision and bringing about improvement are common areas for action in these homes.

This children's services assessment is provided in accordance with section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

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, Children's Services Assessment