

Isle of Wight – Inspection of child protection

26 November-5 December 2012

Summary report for children and young people

The purpose of the inspection is to look at how well the council and other organisations help and protect children and young people to be safe from harm and to be well cared for.

Overall we rated the Isle of Wight as **inadequate** for how effective child protection services are. All of our grades are explained in the table below:

Outstanding	A service that is significantly better than required at keeping children and young people safe
Good	A service that is better than required at keeping children and young people safe
Adequate	A service that is doing what is required to keep children and young people safe
Inadequate	A service that is not doing what is required to keep children and young people safe

Here is a summary of the things we found at the inspection that were generally **adequate or good** and the things we told the Director:

The disability service understands how important it is to keep children and young people safe and also not change social workers. They now work with children until they are adults aged up to 25 years old.

Children's centres and schools can be very good at understanding when a family is having problems and then providing help that makes a difference.

The staff who work for children's services are enthusiastic and want to do the best job that they can to keep children and young people safe. They know that they must do some things better and they want to improve as soon as possible.

Ofsted have visited nearly all of the children's centres on the Isle of Wight and have found them to be either good or outstanding. The centres know a lot about how to help children and their families and the best way to do it.

Social workers visit children regularly, they usually see and talk to them on their own and they keep good records of what the child says to them.

Here is a summary of the things we found at the inspection that **needed improving** and the things we told the Director:

Not all children and young people get the right help from social workers when they need it to help them be safe.

Sometimes social workers are slow to sort problems out for children and they are not always good at understanding all the things that need to change before a child will be protected.

Some of the managers have not been able to understand or put right things when there are delays or when the social worker doesn't understand the problem properly.

When social workers look at the problems in a family they sometimes give too much attention to what the adults say and do not think hard enough about what might be best for the child. Sometimes this means the plans they make won't work and things don't get better.

Social workers do not always get the chance to talk to their managers about the children there are working with and how well they are doing as a social worker.

Managers don't always have the right information about all the work that is being done with children. This means that they find it hard to sort out problems and make improvements to all the work that they are in charge of.

The full inspection report was published on 15 January 2013. The council will now prepare a plan to show how they will improve things. It will also say when they are going to talk to children and young people about what they are going to do and which groups they are going to talk to.

If you would like to look at the full inspection report you can find this at

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/isle-of-wight>