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Add recipient details (local authority to complete)

To the children and young people in Gloucestershire

Inspection of children's services

In February 2022, Ofsted inspectors visited your area. They looked at children and young people's experiences of the help, protection and care given to them by workers at the local authority. They also looked at what leaders at the local authority do to make these services better.

We have asked the workers at the local authority to share this letter with you. It tells you the main things that inspectors found. There is a more detailed report on our website that you can read if you want to.

What grades did inspectors give the local authority?

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	Requires improvement to be good
Overall effectiveness	Requires improvement to be good

What did the inspectors find

- Senior leaders and staff have worked very hard since the last inspection in 2017, and some services that help children are now much better than before. Services are still not yet good, and leaders know there is more work to do to so that all children who need help have this at the right time.
- Social workers and personal advisers spend time with children so that they can get to know them well, but some children still have too many changes in workers, so they find it hard to trust staff they don't know.
- Some children live at home for too long when it is not always safe for them, and it can take too long for them to get the right help. When children have a plan to make things better, it does not always happen quickly enough.
- When staff are worried about children who go missing from their homes or children who are unsafe from others that live outside of their family, workers make sure that children have the right help and support.
- Leaders agree that social workers, teachers, police and health workers need to talk together more, when they are worried about children's safety. This does not always happen when it should.
- Disabled children have help from social workers that know them well. Some disabled children wait too long for services that they need to make sure they get the help when it is needed.
- When children need to be in care, staff try to make sure that children live in homes that they can live in for a long time and that they can live with their brothers and sisters.
- When children leave care, some do not always have the right place to live, and some do not always feel safe in their homes. Some children leaving care are not able to meet or get help from their personal advisor early enough.

Yours sincerely

Andy Waugh
Lead inspector
HMI Social Care