



Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)

March 2022

Context

Derby's last judgement inspection was in March 2017

Children's services in Derby City are good		
1. Children who need help and protection		Requires improvement
2. Children looked after and achieving permanence		Good
	2.1 Adoption performance	Good
	2.2 Experiences and progress of care leavers	Good
3. Leadership, management and governance		Good

We have since been assessed via a:

- **JTAI** (*CSAFE and our multi-agency front door*) - 2019
- **Focused Visit** (*CIC, sufficiency and permanence*) - 2021

ILACS background

- Part of a **‘whole-system approach’** to inspections
- Authorities can be assessed via a **short or standard inspection**
- **Key lines of enquiries (KLOEs)** are informed by annual conversations and focused visits
- Inspections focus on the **effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements** in relation to:
 - how our practice helps and protects children;
 - the experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home;
 - our arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption; and
 - the experiences and progress of care leavers.

Short inspections – three key questions



Has the **quality and impact of practice** been maintained?



Are there any areas where the **quality and impact of practice** have improved?



Are there any areas where the **quality and impact of practice** have deteriorated?



Inspectors will be focusing on **social workers' direct practice** with families by:

- **scrutinising and discussing a sample of children's cases alongside discussions with practitioners working with the child or young person**
- **where possible and appropriate, having meetings with children, young people, care leavers, parents and carers, foster carers and adopters**
- **shadowing staff** in their day-to-day work
- **where possible and appropriate, observing practice** in multi-agency/single-agency meetings or, more likely, parts of meetings



What are we most proud of?



Derby City Council

Children and young people in Derby are safe



Thresholds are consistently applied and appropriate



Stronger Families, Resilient Children

Co-working

Internally across and within early help and social work teams and alongside our partners



Workers know their children and families well, with their voices at the centre of our work



Keeping Babies Safe Strategy has been well implemented across the partnership



Strength based approaches to working with children, young people and families



Management of COVID risk implemented from the start; focused on the most vulnerable; adapted to the needs of and risk to children; kept colleagues safe; and we have continued to see children and young people throughout



Our development priorities

- Quality of **contacts and referrals**
- Working together to **minimise drift and delay**, through effective management of throughput
- Continued work on the quality of **plans and chronologies**
- Making sure we continue to **show our workings out** within our case recording
- Strengthening our processes for **private fostering and 16/17 homelessness**

