

Inspection of Local Authority Children Services – Dorset Council

Post Inspection Action Plan

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Introduction

On the 10th to 21st March 2025, Ofsted carried out a short inspection of Dorset Children's Services under the '[Inspection of Local Authority Children Services](#)' (ILACS) framework.

Following an ILACS, Dorset Children's Services are required to submit an action plan to address any recommendations from the report to Ofsted within 70 working days of receiving the final inspection report.

The final inspection report for Dorset Children's Services was published on 9th May 2025, therefore the deadline for the action plan to be returned to Ofsted is 15th August 2025. Dorset has already commenced activity to deliver the actions required to meet the recommendation. This action plan will be provided to Cabinet on 24th June 2025 for leadership oversight.

Dorset has existing and established governance channels which will provide oversight of the progress and impact of the action plan, through Children's Services Leadership, Quality Practice Action Group and the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Areas of Improvement

There was one area of improvement identified in the final Ofsted report:

1. The clarity and detail of the care leaver offer, including for care leavers who are parents. (Outcome 4, National Framework)

To address this improvement area, we will review and revise our offer in partnership with care experienced young people with a view to provide an improved offer, that is set out in greater detail and clarity and is one that is equitable. The action plan is outlined in the table below:

Action		Detailed Actions	Desired Outcome	Action Lead	Target Date
1. Review and revise our offer in partnership with care experienced young people with a view to provide an improved offer, that is set out in greater detail and clarity and is one that is equitable	1.1	Run specific workshops within Corporate Parenting Board with care experienced young people to review and revise our offer	A co-produced strong offer influenced by the needs of our care experienced young people	Head of Service – Care Leavers	Oct 2025
	1.2	Take action to ensure that our financial support to care experienced young people in relation to council tax is equitable for all care experienced young people living inside and outside of Dorset.	A clear and equitable offer for all care experienced young people	Executive Director of Children's Services	Oct 2025
	1.3	Specific focus on reviewing and improving the offer for care experienced young people who are parents	Provide a strong and robust offer to our care experienced young people who are parents, to give our grandchildren the best possible start in life	Head of Service – Care Leavers	Oct 2025
	1.4	Strengthen the visibility and availability of our offer for care experienced young people through our online information and workforce development activity for the workforce	Care experienced young people in Dorset and staff working with care experienced young people know what the offer is for them and can easily access what they need	Head of Service – Care Leavers	Nov 2025

Conclusion

The progress and impact of all actions will be monitored through the identified governance route with final oversight by the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The Performance and Governance Service will be responsible for supporting services to track progress and delivery of reports.

The Quality Assurance service will ensure a robust evidence base is provided by the Performance and Governance service in demonstrating the progress and impact of the Post Inspection Action Plan.