

## Inspection of Local Authority Children Services – Dorset Council

### Post Inspection Action Plan

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| <b>Report date:</b>      | October 2025      |

## Introduction

On the 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025, therefore the deadline for the action plan to be returned to Ofsted is 15<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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:

|            | Detailed Actions                                                                                                                                                                                     | Desired Outcome                                                                                                                                                   | Action Lead                               | Target Date       | Update                                                                                          | Next steps                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.1</b> | 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 Complete | Workshops held, care leaver offer updated.                                                      | Continue to review the impact of the care leaver offer with care experienced young people (Scheduled through Service Plan)                                                                                         |
| <b>1.2</b> | 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 On-going | We continue to review how best to ensure equity of financial support for care leavers in Dorset | Continue to review the impact of the service through our governance and workforce activities                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1.3</b> | 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 Complete | Dorset care leaver local offer updated, targeted support within localities identified.          | Continue to review the impact of the care leaver offer with care experienced young people (Scheduled through Service Plan) and to review the impact of the service through our governance and workforce activities |
| <b>1.4</b> | 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 Complete | Promotional activity and materials created and implemented                                      | Continue to review the impact of the service through our governance and workforce activities                                                                                                                       |

## Conclusion

The progress and impact of all actions will be monitored through the established governance including the Care Leavers Delivery Group, Corporate Parenting Delivery Group. The Post Inspection Action Plan will have oversight by the Dorset Safeguarding Children's Board.

The Quality Assurance service has ensured a robust evidence base is provided by the Performance and Governance service in demonstrating the progress and impact of the Post Inspection Action Plan. We will continue to evaluate our offer and practice with care leavers via robust quality assurance activities and ensure learning is taken forward throughout the directorate and with partners and key stakeholders.