

Signs of improvement in children's social care - ADCS responds to Ofsted annual report

22nd November 2011

Responding to the publication of the Ofsted annual report, including a summary of findings on performance in children's social care, **Eleanor Schooling, Chair of the ADCS Standards, Performance and Inspection Committee** said:

"It is clearly a cause for concern that a small but significant number of local authorities were graded inadequate for safeguarding by Ofsted in 2010-11. However, there are signs that the situation is improving, with only one authority inspected since April having been found inadequate and Ofsted finding that local authorities are using the information in Ofsted reports to identify necessary improvements and are generally successful in changing practice as a result."

"There are substantial changes underway to both the delivery and inspection of children's social care which will help local authorities to provide flexible and high quality protection services in line with the recommendations of the Munro review and assist Ofsted in judging what matters - the quality and effectiveness of the work done with children and young people. We believe these changes to the inspection framework will help to identify some outstanding practice across the sector, and by sharing this widely alongside sector led support for those struggling to improve, we can ensure that all local authorities can aspire to provide excellent safeguarding services for vulnerable children."

Notes to Editors:

- 1) The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) is the professional leadership association for Directors of Children's Services and their senior management teams in local authorities.
- 2) This comment is in response to the publication of the Ofsted annual report for 2010/11, summarizing inspection results from April 2010 to April 2011. The full report can be found on Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

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