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Responding to the announcement of the annual performance ratings for local authority children's services, Matt Dunkley, President of ADCS said:

"We are pleased to see that the collective work of children's services is getting better year on year and that that is recognised by Ofsted. Above all this has to be good for children. Local authorities and their partners are always striving to improve services for children and young people and today's report shows that most local authorities are delivering good or excellent services in their area, despite the challenges of reduced funding, increased caseloads and significant policy change. All concerned should be congratulated for this progress.

"Where performance is not as good, local authorities will be striving, individually and collectively, to improve the offer in their area. ADCS believes it is vital that each of us learns from each other in these complex tasks. That is why we are firmly committed to the principles of sector-led improvement such as those embodied in the Children's Improvement Board. It is also difficult to summarise the breadth of services provided for children and families in a single grade. For that and other reasons, while we welcome this good news, we remain supportive of the government's stated intention to review this approach to assessment which is now unique in local government."

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) The statement responds to the announcement of annual performance ratings contained in the press release issued by Ofsted entitled "The majority of local authorities are providing good services for local children and young people" and embargoed until 00.01am Tuesday 8 November. For sight of the original press release please contact Ofsted's press office.

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