

Briefing on ILACS and the new judgement on the experiences and progress of care leavers

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Background

- The Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) framework was implemented by Ofsted in 2018. ILACS is a system of inspection which includes:
 - Local Authority sharing self evaluation.
 - Annual engagement meetings.
 - Focused visits that look at a specific area of service or cohort of children.
 - Standard or short inspections where we make judgements on a 4 - point scale.
 - East Sussex last ILACS was in 2018, we are expecting a short inspection in 2023.

ILACS judgements 2018-22

- Overall effectiveness.
- Experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection.
- Experiences of children in care and care leavers.
- Impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families.

Research and consultation

- Ofsted have undertaken extensive research and consultation with children, care experienced adults and families, and organisations representing the views of the care experienced people in 2021-2.
- Concluded that embedding their evaluation of the experiences and progress of care leavers within the wider ‘children in care and care leavers’ judgement has not maximised the profile of care leavers to the extent intended.
- Therefore Ofsted consulted on introducing a new separate judgement for care leavers from June 2022.
- Following the consultation the new judgement has been launched as of January 2023.

What will be covered in the new judgement for care leavers?

- Relationships and participation-including access to social and recreational opportunities and ability to influence the services they are offered.
- Health and emotional wellbeing.
- The local offer for care leavers.
- Making good decisions for care leavers.
- Helping and protecting care leavers.
- Learning and employment.
- Support into adulthood.