

**Report for:** CYPS Scrutiny Panel: 8 March 2018

**Item number:**

**Title:** Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework



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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non-Key

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

To report on the new national ILACS Framework implemented by Ofsted with effect from January 2018.

**2. Recommendations**

That Members receive this update and note the new ILACS Framework against which Haringey Children's Services will be inspected and judged.

**3. Background information**

- 3.1 This is a new statutory, national inspection framework for local authorities in England, announced 29.11.17, following a period of consultation. A transition phase is in progress, pending full implementation.
- 3.2 ILACS is one of several inspections to which Children's Services, or aspects of these services, are subject to (slide 4 of Appendix A attached). It is the broadest reaching relating to children's social care.
- 3.3 ILACS replaces the previous Single inspection Framework [SIF], with the exception of a transition phase for local authorities judged to be 'Inadequate' at their most recent Ofsted full inspection.
- 3.4 Under SIF, Haringey's last full Children's Services inspection was in July 2014 with the outcome judged as 'Requires Improvement'. As summarised in the attached appendix (slide 7), this places Haringey on Ofsted's Pathway 2.
- 3.5 Ofsted describes ILACS as a change of culture and working relationship with local authorities: 'a system not a framework'; a proportionate and risk based approach'; enabling a more flexible response rather than one size fits all;

'catching LAs before they fall'.

3.6 ILACS front cover states:

*'These inspections focus on the effectiveness of LA services and arrangements:*

- *To help and protect children*
- *The experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home*
- *The arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption*
- *The experiences and progress of care leavers.'*

*'In addition, evaluate the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of CYP and the quality of professional practice.'*

3.7 Five elements combine to form the ILACS Framework (slide 3 Appendix 1 attached):

a) Activity outside inspection

1. Annual self evaluation [SEF] of social work quality and practice
2. Annual conversation meeting (Framework paras 39 – 48) including social care engagement, plus wider education and early years;
3. Ofsted Local Authority Information System [LAIS] (data and performance system)

b) Inspection and focused visits

4. Inspection (three yearly) with one week's notice and six inspectors: short one week on site; standard two weeks on site (Framework paras 51 – 102)
5. Focused visits (inspection) on potential areas of improvement or strength (Framework paras 10, 105 -111) with one week's notice and two inspectors and two days onsite with two such visits in a three year cycle. One of which could be replaced by a JTAI.

3.8 This means that in a maximum three year cycle Haringey should expect to receive two focused visits, one of which may be a Joint Targeted area Inspection, and a standard length inspection. The exact sequence in which these will be experienced is not prescribed. No more detailed description of possible timings is provided (Framework para 13), so it is not possible to know when Haringey might receive their next inspection or which form that will take.

However, recognising that Haringey has not been inspected since July 2014, an inspection is already overdue.

In view of the recent partnership Joint Targeted Area Inspection in Neglect (December 2017), it is not anticipated that a further JTAI will be notified during 2018.

- 3.9 The annual SEF of Social Work practice is a significant new item, which LAs are requested to share voluntarily with Ofsted (ILACS Framework document paras 33-38). It forms the basis of discussion at the annual engagement meeting, and initial key lines of enquiry for all inspection and focused visits. Ofsted will discuss possible topics for focused visits with the Director of Children's Services at the annual engagement meeting.
- 3.10 Leadership remains a key, consistent theme within ILACS, '*principally through the lens of the impact of leaders on practice with children and families*'.

#### **4. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

The Corporate Plan, Building a Stronger Haringey Together, sets out the vision and priorities for the Council over the three years running from 2015 – 2018. The ILACS Framework sets a key external statutory inspection context for the delivery of outcomes in both Priority 1 and Priority 2 of the Plan to give all children the best start in life and empower all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives and also to contribute to the closer integration of health and social care.

Preparations are underway for the new "Borough Plan"

#### **5. Use of Appendices**

**Appendix A:** ILACS powerpoint

#### **6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- ILACS Framework, evaluation criteria and inspector guidance for the inspections of local authority children's services  
[published November 2018, minor updates 09.02.18]  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-local-authority-childrens-services-from-2018>
- July 2014 London Borough of Haringey Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board  
[https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local\\_authority\\_reports/haringey/052\\_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/haringey/052_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf)