

**Report of the Cabinet Member**  
**Children's Services and Skills**

I have been asked to report by Councillor Biederman, as follows:

*On the recent Ofsted focussed Visit of Children's service on May 1st/2nd, what immediate actions have been made to pick up on the actions in the report?*

Focused Visits are part of the new Inspection Framework for Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS). They are designed to support improvement and Local Authorities are invited to identify the area of practice they think will most benefit from a Focused Visit.

Most Local Authorities are weakest in the area of Children in Need and Child Protection and Devon is no exception. Hence, we thought we would benefit most from a Focused Visit in this area.

In our Annual Conversation with Ofsted in January 2019, we had asked that any visit be timetabled to take place at least six months after Eclipse implementation, as we recognised the inevitable risks associated with major system change. The visit took place three months post implementation. Inspectors were on site from 1-2 May 2019.

Senior leaders in children's service have responded quickly and with appropriate rigour. We have realigned service priorities and immediately strengthened management information to eliminate any knowledge gaps. A period of accelerated improvement focusing on key areas of practice is underway and will remain in place until the full ILACS takes place (expected later this year or early next). Quality assurance activity is being significantly tightened and we are putting additional resources into this.

The Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer will meet with all managers in the service on 28th May.

The Focused Visit letter is published on 28th May 2019 and will be reported to the June Children's Scrutiny Committee with the accompanying updated Improvement Plan.

**James McInnes**  
Cabinet Member  
Children's Services and Schools