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1 July 2019

Mr Chris Munday  
Executive Director for Children and Young People  
London Borough of Barnet

To the children and young people in the London Borough of Barnet

### **Inspection of children's services**

In May 2019, Ofsted inspectors visited your area. They considered the experiences of children and young people when they need help, protection or care given to them by workers at the local authority. They also looked at what leaders in the local authority do, to make these services better.

We have asked the workers at the local authority to share this letter with you. It tells you the main things that inspectors found. There is a more detailed report on our website that you can read if you want to.

### **What grades did inspectors give the local authority?**

<b>Judgement</b>	<b>Grade</b>
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	<b>Good</b>
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	<b>Good</b>
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	<b>Good</b>
Overall effectiveness	<b>Good</b>

## **What did the inspectors find?**

- We found that services for children and young people in Barnet have improved a lot since the last inspection in 2017, and all services are now good. Senior managers are working well with the police, health staff and other agencies to keep improving the way that children and their families get the support and help that they need, when they need it.
- Social workers work hard to make sure that children and young people are safe. They visit children regularly and get to know them well. This helps them to decide what type of support will be most helpful. There are plenty of different services available that give good support to children and their families to help them to overcome their difficulties.
- Good support is provided to help to keep children and young people safe when they have been at risk of sexual exploitation or going missing, or if they have been involved with gangs, although plans about how to make things better for children are not always clear. It is important that everybody understands what has to change and what they are expected to do.
- Social workers and managers make the right decisions about which children need protection, and when children are not able to live at home with their families. They find them a good place to live and make sure that children keep in contact with people who are important to them, as long as this is safe. Most children stay with their carers for a long time and have the help that they need to make sure that they are healthy and benefit from their education.
- Children with a plan for adoption are placed without delay and receive plenty of help to settle with their new family. Brothers and sisters are placed together as much as possible.
- Children's views are very important to workers and managers, who make sure that their opinions are taken into account in their plans or when changes are made to services for them.
- Young people leaving care receive a good service. Staff keep in touch with them and provide support to help them to keep healthy and to be happy with where they live, and in education, training or a job. There is good support for those young people who choose to go to college or university, and they have practical and financial support to help them to succeed.

With best wishes

Andy Whippey  
Lead Inspector