



FINDINGS

FROM AUDITS AND SURVEYS

A range of audits and surveys have been undertaken relating to children in need of help or protection and those who are looked after. They have shown the following key themes:

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- In children's homes and foster care, staff need to help children by raising awareness of the child's cultural, religious and ethnic needs.
- Children need to be more involved in completing their care plans and being part of plans when these are updated with professionals and the family.
- The timescales for completing Section 47 investigations needs to be met more consistently.

STRENGTHS

- The Local Authority is clear about the threshold for triggering a section 47 child protection investigation.
- Staff capture the parent's responses to child protection investigations and evidence these well within documents and reports.
- The analysis within Section 47 investigations is strong, taking into account risks, strengths and safety factors with clear actions and outcomes being recorded.
- Social workers are frequently seeing children and young people.
- **92%*** of children in foster care feel they are well looked after and safe.
- Young people felt that they were listened to by foster carers and felt supported by staff if they were being bullied.
- **90%*** of children in children's homes felt safe in their homes.
- **100%*** of children felt well looked after by staff and reported that they felt happy to speak to staff.

KEY LEARNING MESSAGES

- Staff need to improve the consistency of feedback on the outcomes of Section 47 investigations to other professionals.
- There needs to be clearer detailed evidence of a child's views and observations of non-verbal children, whether due to age or disabilities, within child protection investigations.
- All staff need to work to become more confident in seeking out and providing feedback from children, their families and young people to help shape services and practice and recognise the value of positive feedback.
- There is a need to increase the use of the 'My Plan' for all children who are able to participate in work to develop plans. They also need to have copies to help them understand why we are involved and what we are to achieve.

75%

75%* of children felt that they understood the reason for their care plan.

65%

65%* felt that the language in their plans were clear.

70%

70%* of children and young people had received a written copy of their care plans.

50%

More than 50%* of children and young people felt that their care plan was improving things for them.