

## Ofsted 2017 recommendations

### **Recommendations**

1. Ensure that capacity in the senior management team is sufficient to address the operational issues that have resulted in inconsistencies in social work practice.
2. Ensure that the scrutiny and oversight of practice provided by managers, child protection chairs and independent reviewing officers are effective in achieving positive change for children.
3. Ensure that all plans and reviews focus on improving outcomes for children and young people and are informed by an up-to-date, holistic assessment of need that includes their ethnicity, identity and cultural needs.
4. Develop effective systems with partner agencies to ensure the appropriate support and oversight of all children kept in police custody.
5. Improve the quality and effectiveness of strategy discussions by ensuring that joint investigations are appropriately planned, with timely completion of actions, and that contingency planning is clear.
6. When children go missing, ensure that return home interviews are timely and of sufficient quality to inform individual planning for children and wider risk reduction strategies.
7. Ensure that there is consistent use of tools for all children who may be at risk of sexual exploitation to improve safety planning and inform trend and risk analysis by senior managers.
8. Ensure that children and young people within the child protection process have timely access to advocacy services.
9. Ensure that all homeless 16 and 17 year olds are appropriately advised of their entitlement to become looked after, and that those that require it are actively supported as children in need.
10. Improve the timeliness and standards of social work practice to families in pre-proceedings work to help parents to understand the concerns for their children and make improvements.
11. Ensure that sufficient foster homes are available for children to meet their needs and that a range of quality placement options are available to them.
12. Ensure that children's initial health assessments are timely, and that the emotional and mental health needs of care leavers and children looked after are recognised and addressed.
13. Ensure that care leavers receive support for living independently at a time appropriate to their individual needs, and that all care leavers are engaged in some purposeful activity that supports them in accessing education, employment or training.