

**19th August 2009**

## **Ofsted inspections**

Ofsted's new process for inspecting children's services has a much stronger focus on safeguarding and looked after children. It involves both an announced and an unannounced inspection.

The unannounced inspection lasts two days and involves visiting social care offices in at least two different parts of the city to focus on work with vulnerable children and young people. Ofsted carried out this inspection in Leeds in July.

The inspectors acknowledged good child-focused work and the experience of staff, but raised concerns that some processes, procedures and practice must improve and be more consistent to ensure children and young people are safe.

These issues are serious. We're working hard to address them quickly. This involves speeding up changes and improvements already underway and building on the momentum that has been gathering around improving our safeguarding work.

In the coming days and weeks you will receive guidance about how the inspection findings affect the way we all work together.

At the same time we are preparing for the announced inspection, which will last for several days. We will receive a maximum of 10 days notice before this, but in advance a significant amount of information and evidence must be gathered. Watch this space to learn more about how you can contribute.

We all need to work together to implement lasting and meaningful change to improve outcomes for children and young people in Leeds and in particular to ensure that all children are safe.

## **What does this mean for me?**

Please read the "working together better" update every time it is circulated. This will let you know how you can contribute to changing children's services in Leeds.