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Date: 20 August 2026

Dear partners,

Subject: Lancashire County Council's Children's Services rated Outstanding and Good by Ofsted

We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised Lancashire County Council's Children's Services as delivering **Outstanding** Leadership and **Outstanding** Care Leavers Services, alongside **Good** judgements for Children in Care and Help & Protection. Building on our previous **Good** judgement in 2022, these results reflect the dedication, expertise and commitment of our workforce and partners across Lancashire.

The inspection found that Lancashire has continued to strengthen services for children and families since the last inspection. Ofsted highlighted an unwavering commitment from leaders to continuous improvement, with children, care leavers and families at the heart of practice. Inspectors recognised that support is provided at the right time and at the earliest opportunity, helping children and families to get effective help, protection and care when they need it most.

The report praises the strong relationships that social workers build with children and families, describing these as a key strength of the service. It highlights a stable, experienced and committed workforce, effective multi-disciplinary working, increased investment in early help and family hubs, and a culture where children's and young people's voices are central to decision making.

Ofsted also recognised the strength of partnership working across Lancashire, noting the strength of the safeguarding partnership and that relationships between agencies are mature and effective. Inspectors found that collaboration between partners is helping to improve outcomes for children, young people, care leavers and families across the county.

Inspectors gave particular praise to support for care leavers, including trusted relationships with personal advisers, comprehensive pathway plans, practical and emotional support, a strong local offer and access to a highly effective wellbeing hub.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all partners who contributed to this outcome. This recognition reflects the value of strong multi-agency collaboration and a shared determination to achieve the best possible outcomes. This achievement belongs

to everyone who plays a part in supporting for children, young people, care leavers and families across Lancashire.

We would particularly like to thank all of our leaders and staff in Children's Services.

While this is a significant achievement for Lancashire, we recognise that improvement is an ongoing journey. Ofsted acknowledged that leaders know their services well, embrace learning and external scrutiny, and continue to focus on areas where further improvements can be made. We will continue to work with partners to build on our strengths and ensure children and families receive the highest quality support.

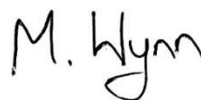
The full report is available here: [Ofsted ILACS report](#)

Thank you for your continued collaboration, support and commitment. This outcome demonstrates what can be achieved when organisations work together with a shared ambition for children and young people.

Yours sincerely



County Councillor Stephen Atkinson
Leader of Lancashire County Council



Mark Wynn
Chief Executive of Lancashire
County Council

