**Statements of Good (Ofsted)**

1. **Children in need of help and protection:**

Children and young people are listened to, practice is focused on their needs and experiences and influenced by their wishes and feelings or, where they cannot represent their view themselves, those advocated on their behalf. They are consistently seen and seen alone by social workers where statutory guidance requires that this should happen and it is professionally judged to be in the best interests of the child.

Children, young people and families benefit from stable and meaningful relationships with social workers. They are engaged in all actions and decisions and understand the intentions of the help they receive. Where families refuse to engage there are continued attempts to help them to do so. However, where there are concerns about the safety and protection of children and parents do not engage, there is a full risk assessment and urgent involvement of a senior manager in all decisions about next steps.

Children, young people and families are offered help when needs and/or concerns are first identified and, as a consequence of the early help offered, children’s circumstances improve and, in some cases, the need for targeted services is lessened or avoided. The interface between early help and statutory child protection work is clearly and effectively differentiated.

has to change and the options for the future.

reviewed and alternative authoritative action is taken where the circumstances for children do not change and the risk of harm or actual harm remains or intensifies.

monitored and multi-agency responses are effective and coordinated between agencies, including management through MARAC.

Where protection and support is provided by a third party provider to which statutory functions have been delegated, children and young people receive the same high quality services that they could expect from the social work service provided directly by a local authority.

1. **Looked after Children**

Decisions to look after children and young people are timely and made only when it is in their best interests. Those decisions are based on clear, effective, comprehensive and risk-based assessments involving other professionals working with the family where appropriate.

Care is used only if this is in the child’s best interests. Children and young people are safely and successfully returned home; where this is not possible for them, permanent plans are made for them to live away from the family home. Families are made aware of, and encouraged to access, legal advice and advocacy.

carers as they would from a good parent. The attainment

gap between them and their peers is narrowing. The local authority maintains accurate and up-to-date information about how looked after children are progressing at school and takes urgent and individual action when they are not achieving well. All looked after children and young people attend a good school.

is provided by a third party provider to which statutory functions have been delegated will receive the same high quality services that they could expect from the social work service provided directly by a local authority.

1. **Care Leavers**

The experiences and progress of care leavers is likely to be judged to be good if:

celebrated and the local authority shows they are positive and proud of their care leavers.

identified and alternative plans are in place.

1. **Leadership, Management and Governance**

Leadership, management and governance are likely to be judged good if:

s happening at the ‘front line’ and how well children and young people are helped, cared for and protected.

quality provision to meet local need. This should include services, placements and adoptive families for children and young people for whom the authority has a statutory responsibility and where necessary for vulnerable adults who are also parents.

third party provider, commissioning and contract compliance ensures those children and young people receiving this service progress at least as well as those served by a good local authority.