



House of Commons
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Press Release – For immediate release

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
Shadow Minister for Preventing Abuse and Domestic Violence
Wednesday 29th June, 2016

Sarah Champion MP comments on Ofsted report

Responding to a report launched yesterday by Ofsted, *The report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2016, Social Care*, Sarah Champion MP said:

"Children who come to the attention of social care are extremely vulnerable and the care provided to them must be of the highest quality. Ofsted's annual report is extremely concerning, with them judging a quarter of local authorities as inadequate. Ofsted have found that the reason for the failure of many is the quality of leadership not being of a high enough standard.

Local authorities are the guardians who determine and intervene to ensure a child is safe from harm. If local authority services are weak a child may be exposed to avoidable harm or dealt with inappropriately.

It's vital that the quality of leadership is now addressed to ensure that the 60 out of the 87 inspected local authorities not found to be outstanding or good for leadership are provided with the support needed to improve practice.

Social work is an admirable profession with many fantastic, hardworking, dedicated individuals but it is clear in the report that social workers are being over worked which can lead to children falling through the system. This was evidenced by the inspected 14 local authorities where social workers' caseloads were too high.

I support the recommendations demonstrated throughout the report. It's essential to ensure that there is a whole system approach so that everyone who is working with children work together to ensure that children are protected at every stage of contact.

For the sake of our children, the Government needs to act promptly to implement the recommendations in the report so all children get the service and protection they deserve."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

The full report can be accessed from:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/532288/Ofsted_social_care_annual_report_2016.pdf