

ILACS June 2025

This presentation will:

- Summarise overall judgements
- Highlight Strengths
- Highlight Areas for improvement
- Discuss recommendations and next steps

Children, Adults, Health and
Wellbeing Policy Development and
Scrutiny Panel, October 2025

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

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Headline Judgements

- Impact of leaders: Good
- Help and Protection: Good
- Children in Care: Good
- Care Leavers: Good
- *Overall: Good*

"I never really sat down and thought about how much each and every person in the Care Experience team have supported me until today and it makes me appreciate and cherish what I have and that is a brilliant group of people who care and not because they have to but because they do! " **Quote from a young person, sent to inspectors.**

“Children in Bath and North East Somerset continue to benefit from good quality support, help and services that have a positive impact on their lives”

Key Strengths

Family Support and Safeguarding

- Children receive the right help at the right time, through our Front Door
- Strong relationships built by social workers.
- Good early help and targeted support.
- Effective safeguarding responses, including out-of-hours.
- Innovative support (e.g., fostering families service).
- Robust oversight and meaningful work with young people experiencing exploitation

Inspectors commented that we are really trying to change the way we work with families, to break intergenerational patterns and keep families together.

“Social workers know children well and spend quality time with them, building meaningful and trusting relationships”

Children In Care & Care Leavers

- Children in care supported in education and aspirations.
- Creative life-story work & identity support take place from an early stage
- Care leavers well supported by PAs & via Pathway Planning
- Corporate commitment (strong leadership & investment).
- Participation is strong and young people feel listened to

“Disabled children in care receive a child-centred response from committed and skilled social workers who know them well”

“Most children live in safe and suitable homes that meet their needs, and they make good progress.”

“Care leavers develop trusted and positive ongoing relationships with their PAs and feel safe to turn to them for support when they get into difficulties”

Areas for Improvement

Planning and Next Steps

- Ofsted Annual engagement meeting on 1st October
- Current Business Planning around the Families First agenda /Smarter Structures to include actions around areas we need to strengthen.
- Expand local, in-house placement sufficiency
- New processes and structures be created, to improve return home interviews.
- Improvement plan to be submitted to Ofsted in November 2025

The effectiveness of return home interviews with missing children needs improving

We need to ensure that our young people know our local offer well after turning 21 and know that they can come back when they need us

Management oversight & supervision needs to be more consistent.

Summary

“There is regular and strong participation activity and consultation with children in care and care leavers. This is used well to inform services and support”

- Good progress since 2022 inspection.
- Planning underway to address gaps and strong new senior management team
- Excellent time to have these findings, as we look to restructure services.

“As a corporate parent, the council takes its responsibilities seriously and is continuously looking at how to improve their response, support and services to children in care and care leavers.”