

Provisional rating of children's services 2009

Children's services rating	Performs well
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The rating for children's services in Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is that it performs well.

A higher than average proportion of both primary and secondary schools, including the schools' sixth forms is good or outstanding. There are no poor primary schools but two of the 14 secondary schools are inadequate. Most nurseries are also good or better and the proportion is above that of similar areas and nationally. A greater proportion of childminder and childcare settings are just satisfactory overall. They do not do as well as similar areas or nationally in being healthy and staying safe. One special school is outstanding, one is good and one is satisfactory. The pupil referral unit is good. Performance of the local authority's fostering and adoption agencies is good. Two of the four children's home are outstanding and two are good. They do particularly well in ensuring that children are healthy and safe. Private fostering arrangements are also good. One serious case review was judged to be inadequate in June 2009.

Performance against a large majority of national indicators, including those for staying safe and enjoying and achieving, is in line with similar areas and the national figure. Educational achievement matches the national averages at ages 11 and 16 but there are some inequalities for 16 year olds who have special educational needs and those from low income backgrounds. The gap in outcomes for these young people compared with others of the same age is wider than the national figure. Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 is above similar areas but at Level 3 it is below. A greater proportion of 16 to 18 year olds than in similar areas and nationally are not in education, employment or training. Performance for care leavers and for young people known to the offending services is good with a higher than average number engaged in education, employment or training.

The children's services rating is provided for the purpose of section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The rating of local authority children's services will contribute significantly to the managing performance theme of each local authority's Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) organisational assessment and therefore to the score for each local authority overall.

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