

Local authority and children’s homes in England, inspection outcomes

This release contains:

- Inspection outcomes for local authority children’s services inspections, from November 2013
- Inspection outcomes for childrens homes between 1 April and 30 September 2015

The data presented here on inspections of local authority children’s services, cover those inspections published by 30 November 2015, and are final.

The data presented here on children’s homes, cover those inspections published by 30 September 2015, and are provisional.

Key Points

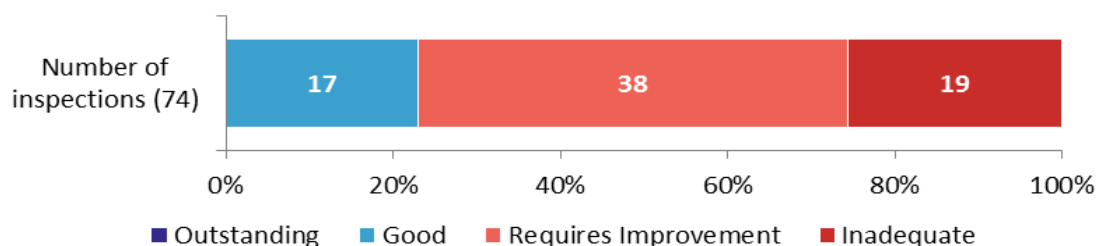
In the first six months of 2015, children’s homes showed an improved *Overall effectiveness* judgement profile compared to the same period the previous year.

Just over 71% of homes were judged good or better; a thirteen percentage point increase from the same period in 2014.

Around a quarter of local authorities, so far, were judged to be good for *Overall effectiveness* for the single inspection framework for inspecting services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (SIF).

Around a quarter (17) were judged to be good whereas just over one half (38) require improvement to be good.

SIF *Overall effectiveness* from November 2013 to November 2015



One quarter of local authorities, so far, were judged to be inadequate for the SIF.

Nineteen local authorities were judged to be inadequate.

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Introduction

This statistical release is the combination of two previous separate statistical releases. Following a consultation with providers and stakeholders, the decision was made to combine them into one and change the frequency of publication to twice a year in July and December. The July release covers the whole inspection year, 1 April to 31 March, for all types of social care provision and is called 'Children's social care in England'. The December release covers inspections of local authorities and children's homes between 1 April and 30 September.

The Excel part of this new release now has more interactive elements, allowing the user to select from a range of drop down options to see the data they require. When the user selects a local authority in one table this will also select the same authority in the other tables allowing easy access to the data they require. It also now includes direct links to the provider pages which contain the inspection reports.

Previously published data regarding LA and children's homes inspections can be found at the following links on GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/childrens-social-care-statistics> and in the National Archives <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141124154759/http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistics>. These pages also contain data on adoption, fostering, children looked after placements and serious incident notifications which the reader may find relevant.

Key findings

Inspection of local authority children's services

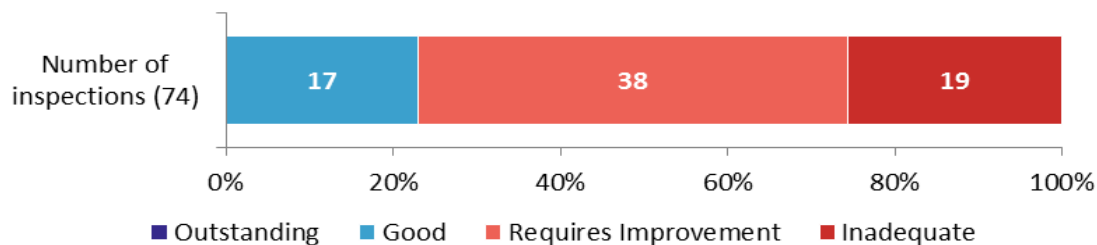
Ofsted inspects local authority services for children who need help and protection, children looked after, and care leavers under the single inspection framework, introduced in November 2013.

***Overall effectiveness*¹ from November 2013 to November 2015**

There have been 74 SIF inspections published by 30 November 2015. This makes up 49% of all local authorities responsible for children's social care in England. The picture, therefore, is still only a partial one and is not necessarily representative of the quality of services for all local authorities in the country.

Just under a quarter (17) were judged to be good for *Overall effectiveness*, but none were judged outstanding. Just over half of the authorities (38) were judged as requires improvement, and just over a quarter (19) were judged to be inadequate. (Chart 1)

Chart 1: SIF *Overall effectiveness* from November 2013 to November 2015



Regional outcomes for *Overall effectiveness* from November 2013 to November 2015

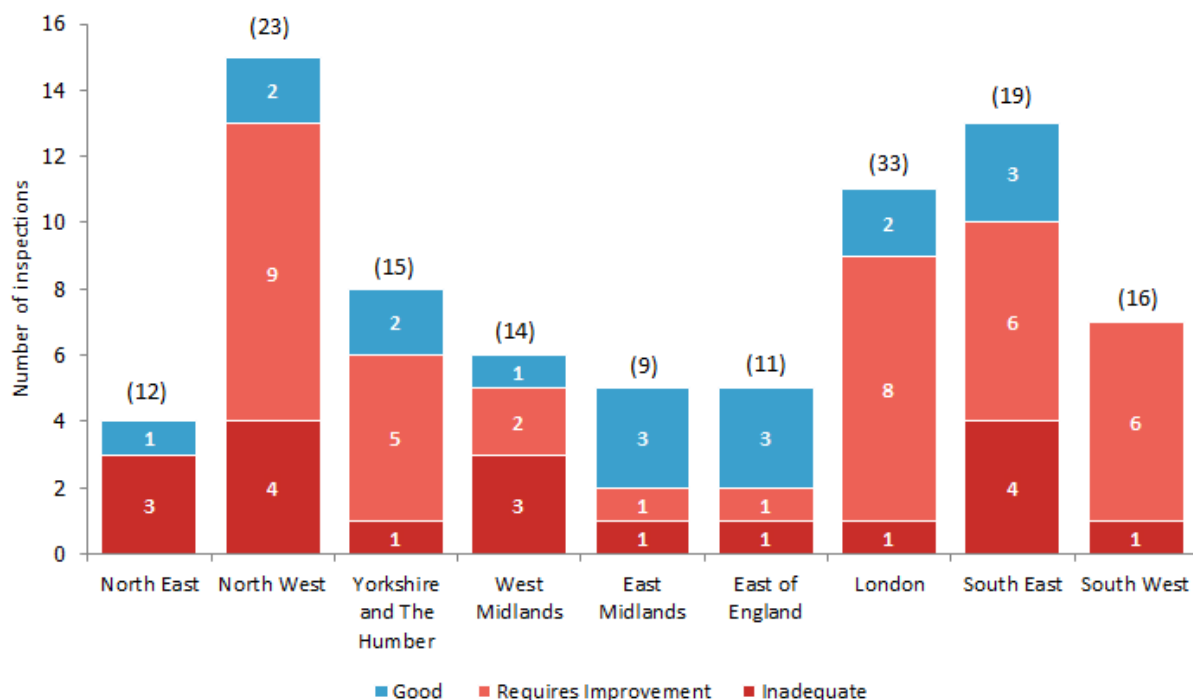
Each region in England varies in terms of size and the number of local authorities within it. Not all regions have been inspected proportionate to the number of authorities within them. The regional picture is, therefore, one contingent on those inspections already completed. It is not necessarily, therefore, yet an accurate reflection of the overall picture of the region, which may improve or worsen over time, and the current data need to be considered in that light.

The 17 authorities that were judged good for *Overall effectiveness* were spread across eight regions, with the only region yet to have an authority judged good

¹ The *Overall effectiveness* judgement is derived from three key judgements: the experiences and progress of *Children who need help and protection*; the experiences and progress of *Children looked after and achieving permanence*; and *Leadership, management and governance*.

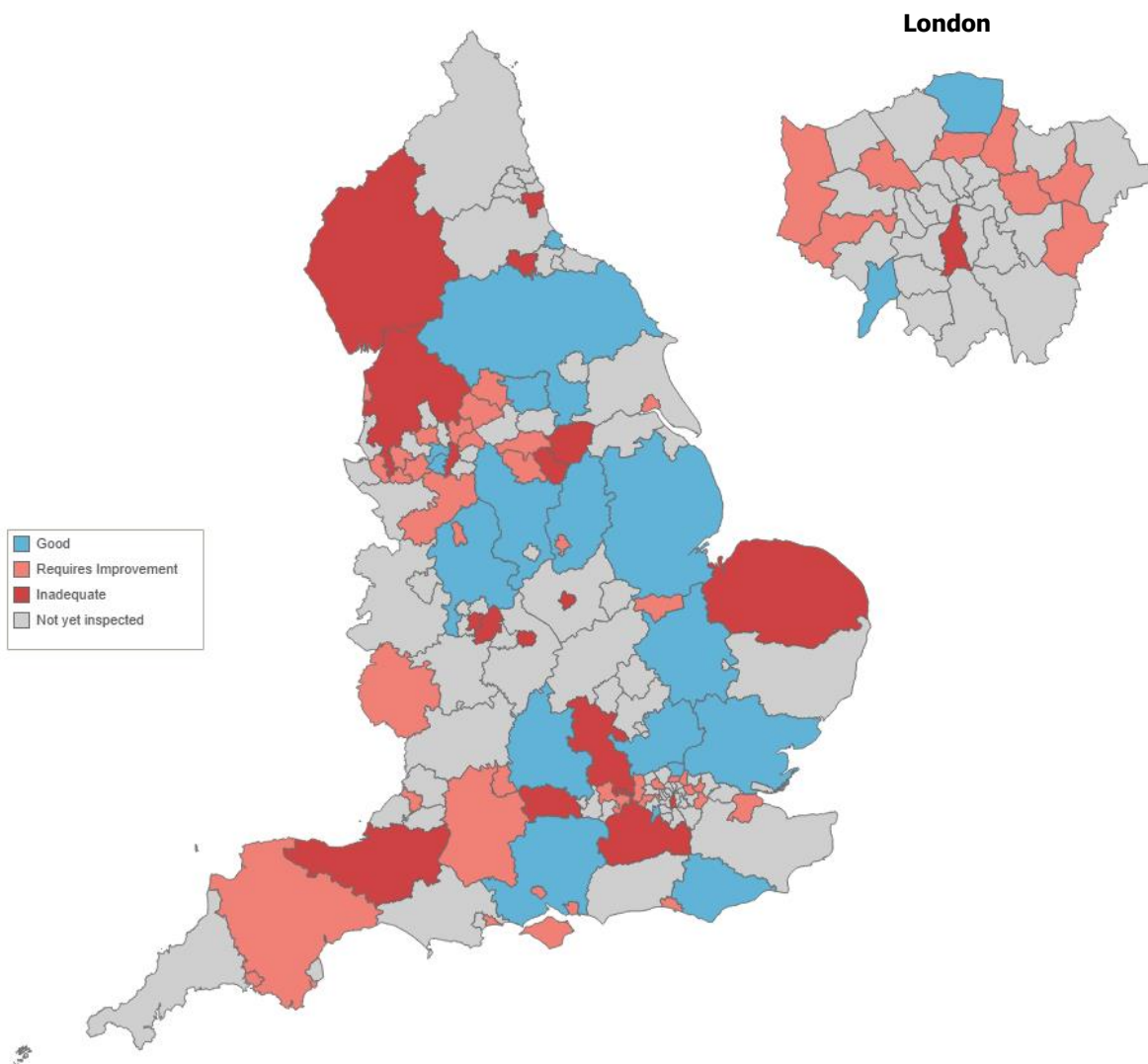
being the South West. All nine regions has had at least one authority judged as inadequate. (Chart 2)

Chart 2: SIF Overall effectiveness judgements from November 2013 to November 2015, by region



Number in brackets represents the number of local authorities within the region

Map 1: SIF Overall effectiveness by local authority from November 2013 to November 2015



Inspections of local authorities: some comparisons

Because of the different frameworks used to inspect local authorities since 2009, it is difficult to adequately compare the SIF *Overall effectiveness* judgement with those from previous inspection frameworks. However, some comparisons of key judgements is possible, including a comparison of the *Children who need help and protection* key judgement with the latest Child Protection or Safeguarding judgement.

The overall comparative picture indicates more decline than improvement. A total of 21 authorities saw an improvement, while 28 declined. Twenty-five authorities remained the same.

Reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards

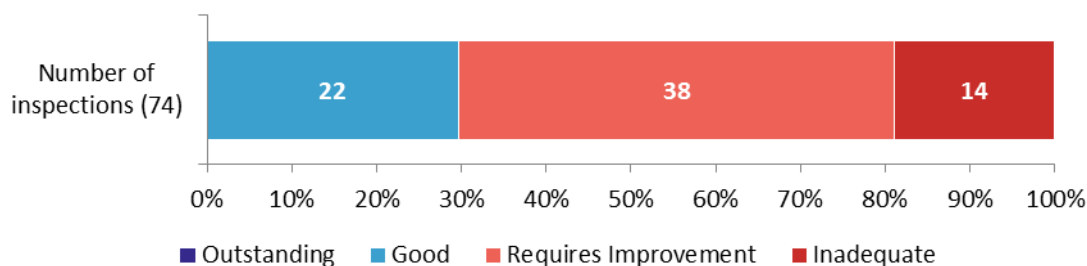
Ofsted conducts reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) alongside the SIF inspections of local authority children’s services. Their inspection *Overall effectiveness* judgement is not however directly comparable to the SIF *Overall effectiveness* judgement. This inspection arrangement has been in place since November 2013.

Overall effectiveness from November 2013 to November 2015

There have been 74 reviews of LSCBs published by 30 November 2015.² As with the SIFs, the picture is still only a partial one and is not necessarily representative of the quality of all LSCBs in the country.

Around one third (22) were judged to be good for *Overall effectiveness*, and none were judged outstanding. Around half (38) were judged requires improvement. (Chart 3)

Chart 3: Overall effectiveness judgements for LSCB reviews from November 2013 to November 2015



² One of these reviews was conducted under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

All children's homes

Children's homes

Children's homes cater for the very large majority of children looked after who are in residential care. They provide care that meets the various, diverse needs of children looked after. Some specialise in a particular set of needs, such as children on the autistic spectrum or children with behavioural difficulties. They are inspected on an annual cycle.

Residential special schools registered as children's homes

Residential special schools registered as children's homes are an important sub-group of children's homes. These homes specialise in educational provision for very vulnerable children, including children looked after.

Secure children's homes

Secure children's homes provide services to young people who have placed themselves, or others, at risk of harm and meets their needs within a secure environment, including residential care, educational facilities and healthcare provision. There is a mixed economy of 'welfare' beds and those under contract to the Youth Justice Board.

Overall effectiveness from 1 April to 30 September 2015

There were 959 full inspections of all types of children's homes between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015. Most of these, 94% (903), were inspections of children's homes, while five per cent (48) were for residential special schools registered as children's homes, and one per cent (eight) for secure homes.

There was a shift in the profile of good or better outcome judgements between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015 compared to the same period in the previous year. Looking at all types of children's homes 71% of inspections resulted in a good or better *Overall effectiveness* judgement; an increase from the same period in the previous year of 13 percentage points. (Chart 4)

Of the inspections between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015 for all children's homes, 112 (12%) were outstanding for their *Overall effectiveness*, an increase of five percentage points from the same period in the previous year.

Almost 60% of the inspections, 570, were judged good.

The percentage of inspections that resulted in a requires improvement judgement decreased to 23% (221), seven percentage points lower from the same period in the previous year.

Inadequate judgements decreased, from 12% (115), of inspections between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014, to 6% (56) of inspections in the same period in the year 2015-16.

Chart 4: Children’s homes Overall effectiveness judgements between 1 April and 30 September 2015

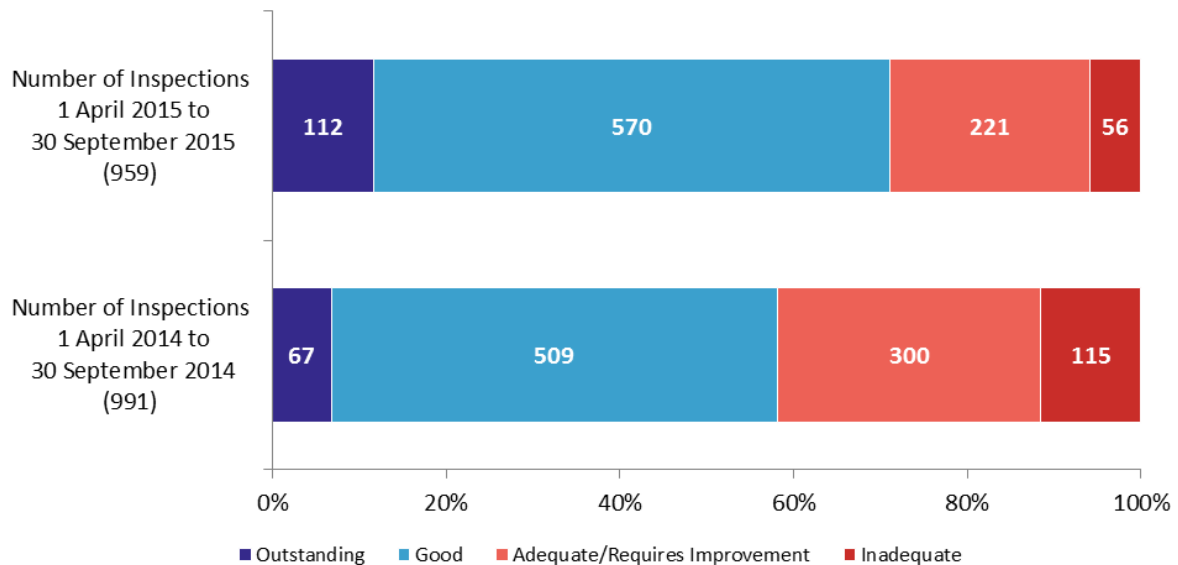
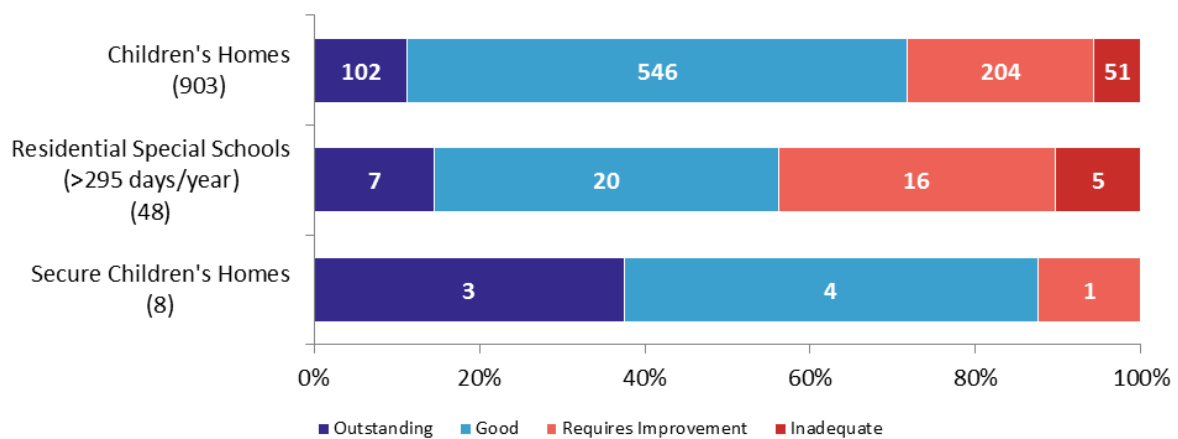


Chart 5: Children’s homes sub type Overall effectiveness judgements between 1 April and 30 September 2015



Change since last inspection

There were 813 homes inspected once in the period 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015 that had also been inspected in 2014-15.³

When comparing the most recent inspection of all homes inspected between 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015 to the year 2014-15, just over half (440) remained unchanged in their judgement. (Chart 7)

Most of these homes, 352 (80%) stayed good or outstanding.

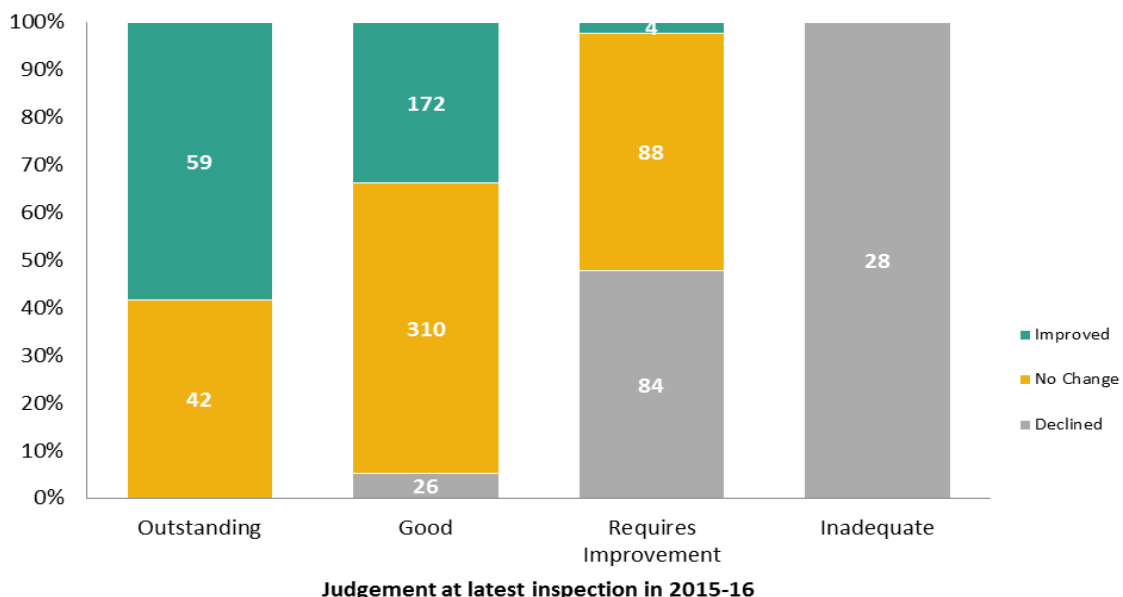
There was overall more improvement than decline: 29% (235) of homes improved and 17% (138) declined.

Of the 71 homes previously inspected as outstanding in 2014-15, 29 (41%) declined: 26 declined to good, two declined to requires improvement and one to inadequate.

Of the homes previously inspected as good, 55 (12%) improved and 94 (20%) declined; 82 declined to requires improvement and 12 declined to inadequate.

Just over three-fifths (175) of the 278 homes that were previously judged as adequate/requires improvement had improved, whereas only 5% (15) declined.

Chart 6: Change to *Overall effectiveness* judgement compared to previous inspection



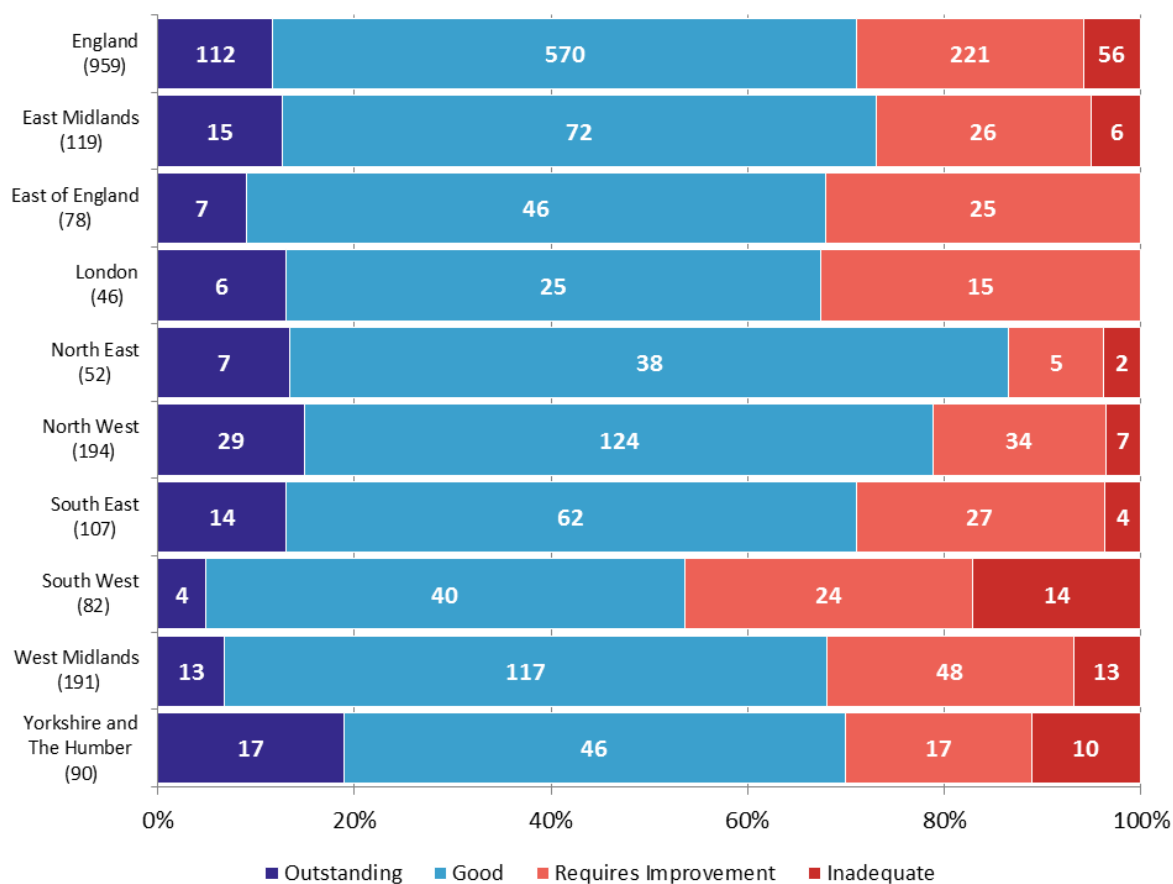
³ Homes which were inspected twice between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015 have not been included in this section.

Regional outcomes for all children’s homes

The regions with the highest percentage of inspections resulting in good or better grades between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015 were the North East (87%), the North West (79%) and the East Midlands (73%). (Chart 6)

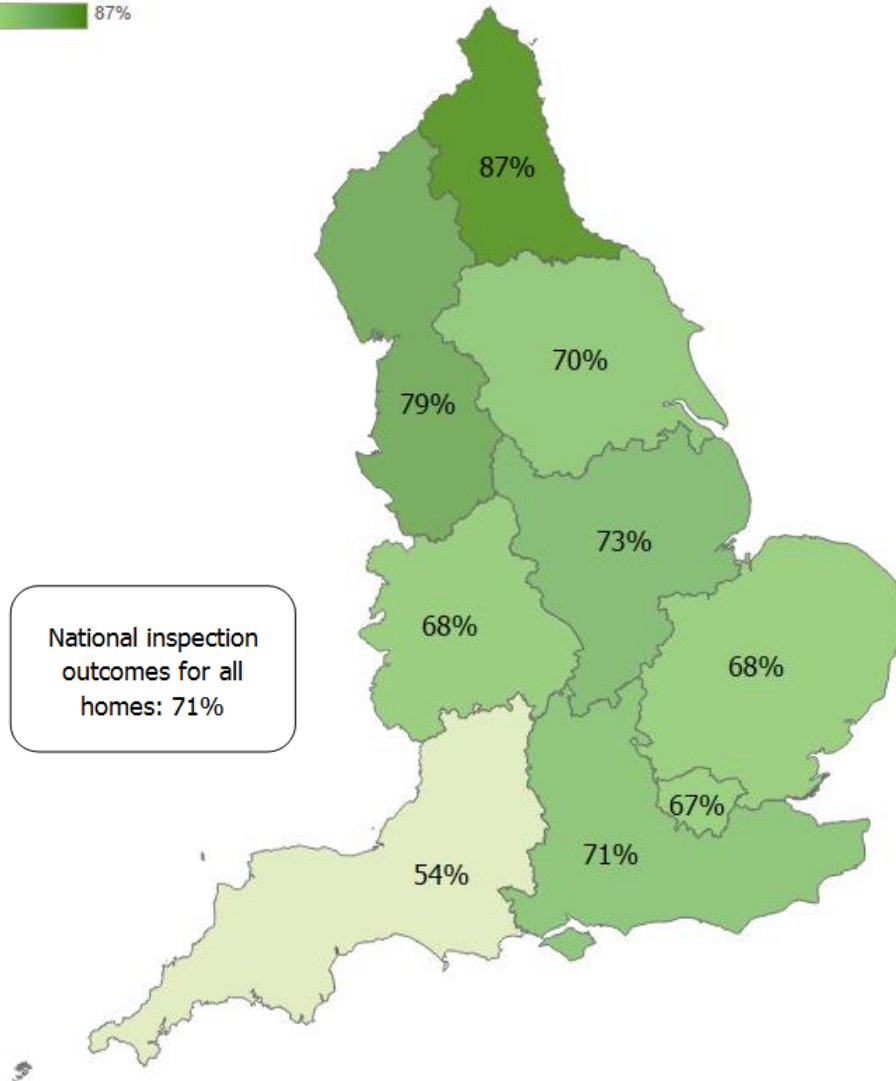
The regions with the lowest percentage of inspections resulting in good or better grades were the South West (54%) and London (67%). The national proportion of good or better inspections was 71%.

Chart 7: Full inspections of children's homes between 1 April and 30 September 2015, by region

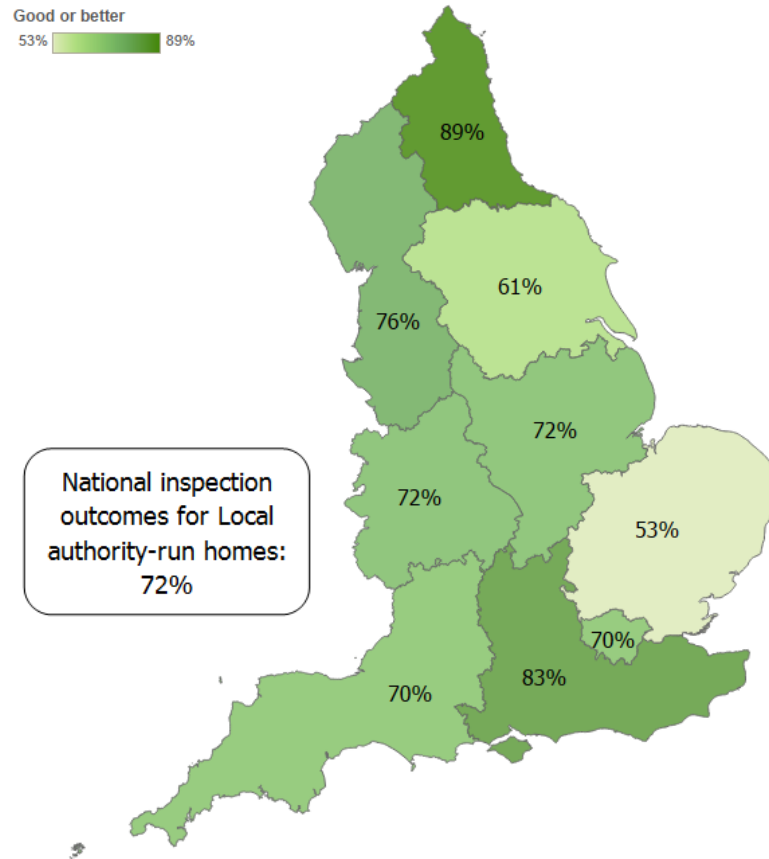


Map 2: All children's homes full inspections resulting in a good or better *overall effectiveness* judgement, by region, between 1 April and 30 September 2015

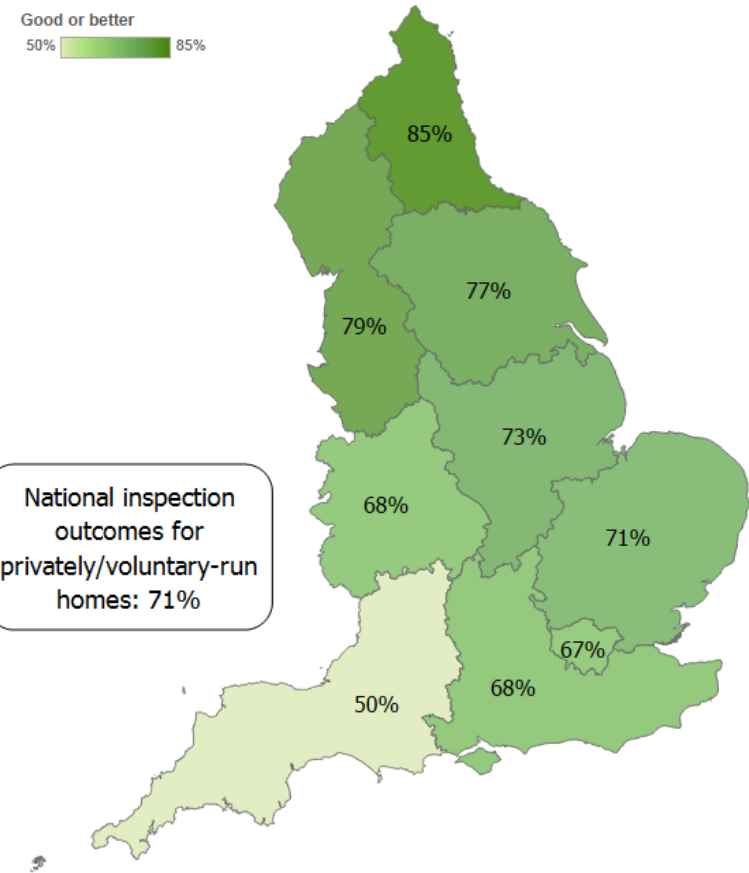
Good or better
54%  87%



Map 3: Full inspections of local authority-run children's homes which resulted in a good or better *overall effectiveness* judgement, by region, between 1 April and 30 September 2015



Map 4: Full inspections of private and voluntary-run children's homes which resulted in a good or better *overall effectiveness* judgement, by region, between 1 April and 30 September 2015



Sector data for all children’s homes

Between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015, there were 202 inspections of local authority-run homes (approximately 44% of all local authority-run homes). There were 686 inspections of privately-run homes (approximately 48% of all privately-run homes), and 68 inspections of voluntary-run homes (approximately 39% of all voluntary-run homes). (Chart 8)

Local authority-run homes had a higher proportion of outstanding *Overall effectiveness* judgements for the period, at 18%, compared to private and voluntary-run homes, with 10% and 15%, respectively.

However, a higher proportion of voluntary-run homes (76%) received a good or better *Overall effectiveness* judgement than private and local authority-run homes, at 70% and 72% respectively.

A slightly higher proportion of local authority-run homes and voluntary-run homes were judged as inadequate, at 7% each, compared to 5% of privately-run homes.

Chart 8: Children’s homes *Overall effectiveness* between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015, by sector

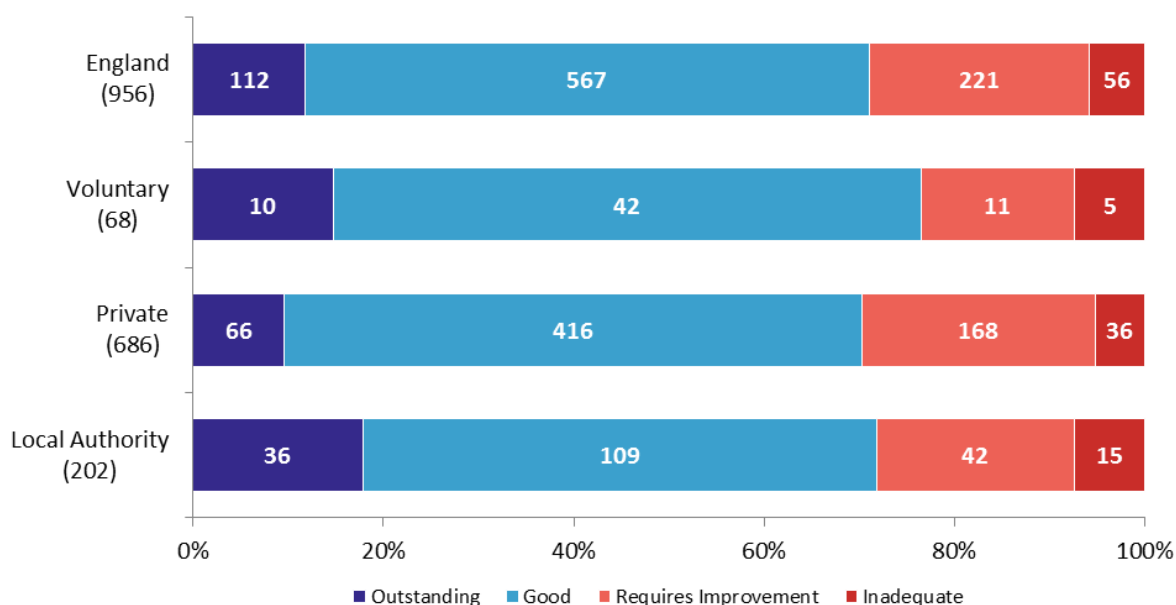
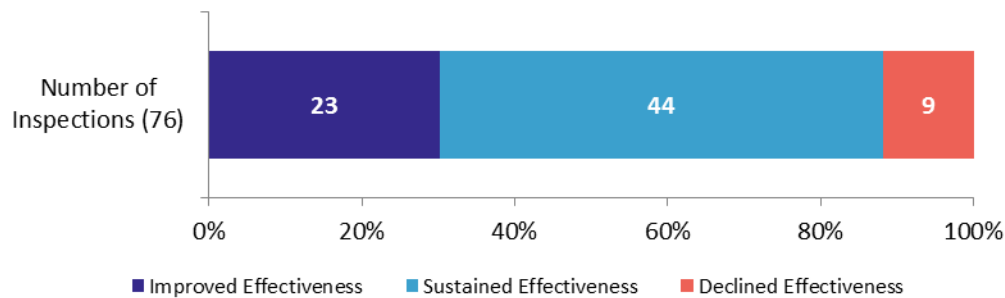


Chart does not include three inspections of Health authority-run homes

Interim inspections for all children's homes

Between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015, there were 87 interim inspections of all types of children's homes, 76 of these resulted in a judgement. (Chart 9)

Chart 9: Interim inspections for all children's homes 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015



Monitoring visits for all children's homes

There were 41 monitoring visits carried out to all types of children's homes between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015.

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Revisions to previous release

Revisions are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics. For more information about the policy, please visit the Ofsted website or access the policy via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-standards-for-official-statistics>.

The revision of statistics relating to all children's homes inspections between 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 from 'provisional' to 'revised' status includes outcomes relating to a further 299 inspections. These consist of an additional 39 full inspections and 260 interim inspections, which took place in the period and have been published since 1 May 2015.

Of the additional 39 full inspections, 22 homes received a good or better *Overall effectiveness* judgement and 17 received adequate or lower. These additional inspections mean there is no change to the grade profile presented in the previous provisional data.

The data that make up these revised statistics can be found in the worksheet in the accompanying Excel document called 'Children's Homes 14-15'.

The LA inspection data as at 30 June 2015 from the previous release, are fixed point in time data and therefore have not been revised.

Notes

An explanation about key uses of these data and further contextual information and the arrangements for quality assurance are provided in the accompanying Quality and Methodology report.

The Quality and Methodology report can be found at the following webpage: www.gov.uk/government/collections/childrens-social-care-statistics under the heading 'Local authority and children's homes in England, inspection outcomes'.

The report also provides information about, strengths and limitations of the statistics. The key strength of the data is that the data belong to Ofsted and we have robust systems to capture and record data about registration details and inspections. All data are administrative data which are extracted directly from Ofsted's OfficeBase system. A limitation of the data is that the data are exclusively sourced from Ofsted and there are no other sources to verify.

All the inspections covered in this release are published on the Ofsted website. The main inspection page can be found at the following link and from there you can search for particular Unique Reference Number (URN) or search by provision type. <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this statistical release: Matt Watts, Emily Moreton, Adam Bennell, Marc McGreavy and Rich Jones.

Glossary

Children's homes

A children's home is defined in section 1 of the Care Standards Act 2000, and is an establishment that provides care and accommodation wholly or mainly for children. Children's homes vary in size and nature. They fulfil a range of purposes designed to meet the different needs of those children and young people who are assessed as needing a residential care placement. Some homes, for example, provide short-breaks which are needed to help support children and their family. Some residential special schools are registered as children's homes because boarders are resident for more than 295 days per year.

Local safeguarding children's board (LSCB)

A Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) must be established for every local authority area under the requirements of the Children Act 2004. The LSCB has a range of roles and statutory functions including developing local safeguarding policy and procedures and scrutinising local arrangements. The statutory objectives and functions of the LSCB are set out in Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 sets out the functions of LSCBs, and are described in more detail in Chapter 3 of Working Together 2013.

Residential special schools

Residential special schools are defined in section 59 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. They vary in size and nature. Some residential special schools are registered as children's homes because boarders are resident for more than 295 days per year.

Sector

Sector refers to the type of provider that owns the children's social care provision.

Academy

These are publicly funded independent schools who are run by trusts.

Health Authority

These are NHS Trust-run.

Local Authority

These are public bodies responsible for the children's social care provision.

Private

These are for-profit organisations mostly with limited company status. These can also though be individually owned children's social care provision and run for profit.

Voluntary

These are mostly not-for-profit organisations, mainly with charitable status. These can also be individually owned children's social care provision and run on a not-for-profit basis.

Secure children's homes

Secure children's homes are defined by section 25 of the Children Act 1989. They accommodate children and young people who are remanded or have been sentenced for committing a criminal offence. They also accommodate children and young people who are placed there by a court because their behaviour is deemed to present a significant and immediate threat to their safety or the safety of others, unless they are placed in a secure environment. Ofsted inspections are conducted in accordance with the Care Standards Act 2000 and judgements in reports are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004. The criteria are the same as those used to inspect non-secure children's homes.

If you have any comments or feedback on this publication, please contact the Social Care Data & Analysis Team on 03000 130 020 or socialcaredata@ofsted.gov.uk.

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