

Appendix 1

SEND Local Area Inspection Overview

Inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities

Inspection Scope

- The DCS and CCG manager receive 5 day's notice
- 3 HMIs (Ofsted, CQC, and LA trained HMI) on site for 5 days
- designed to test the local area's response to individual needs:
 - how well we helps **all** children and young people who have SEN and /or disabilities (including those without a statement / EHCP)
 - how the impact of the work by the local area supports better outcomes for children and young people.

Inspectors' planning and preparation before the inspection

The lead HMI and the CQC inspector will consider all available evidence to develop an initial picture of the local area's performance in fulfilling its responsibilities. **They will develop initial hypotheses and key lines of enquiry informed by analysing:**

- outcomes for c&yp with SEN and/or disabilities in national assessments including attendance and exclusion information
- data relating to the identification of SEN at SEN support, and education, health and care (EHC) plan levels
- information about the destinations after leaving school, including NEET
- performance towards meeting expected timescales for statutory assessment
- inspection reports for the local area, its services and providers
- the published local offer
- the local authority short break statement
- schools' and nurseries' published SEN information reports
- the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA)
- the joint health and well-being strategy
- SEND strategic plans devised and used by the local area
- the level of appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Health and Social Care Chamber) (Special Educational Needs and Disability)
- complaints to Ofsted and CQC
- any relevant serious case reviews and their outcomes
- performance information published by the DfE and DoH

Inspectors' planning and preparation before the inspection

Evidence to be analysed continued:

Commissioning and performance data on delivery:

- of healthy child programme (previous 12 months)
- of school nursing service (previous 12 months)
- on neonatal screening programme
- on 0–25 services for CAMHS, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy (to include commissioned care pathways and specialist arrangements for children with SEND).

The lead HMI and CQC inspector will also review additional information such as:

- any evaluation from service users and how these have influenced commissioning and changes to service delivery
- data about initial and health review assessments for children looked after who have or who may have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- pathways for referrals to health services for assessment, including CAMHS, therapies, child development centres and associated performance data
- statistics on health attendance and input into EHC assessment and review meetings
- specifications for local area services, including those for young people aged between 16 to 25
- guidelines on transfer of responsibility.

Inspectors' Key Lines of Enquiry

Inspectors will focus on three key questions:

- **A:** How effectively does the local area **identify** children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities?
- **B:** How effectively does the local area **assess and meet the needs** of c&yp who have SEN and/or disabilities?
- **C:** How effectively does the local area **improve outcomes** for c&yp who have SEN and/or disabilities?

Question A – identification of needs

Inspectors will be looking for evidence that the local area has used identification and assessment information for:

- **establishing a baseline** for setting targets for progress and improvement towards meeting education, health and social care support or therapy needs
- **informing joint commissioning**, predicting the need for services and putting in place provision that meets the needs of children and young people
- **informing planning** for effective teaching and other education, health and social care support or therapy
- **evaluating the effectiveness** of the teaching and other education, health and social care support or therapy provided.

Question B: assessing and meeting needs

To evaluate how effectively the local area assesses and meets needs, inspectors will take account of the following aspects:

- engagement and **co-production** with c&yp, and their parents and carers
- effectiveness of **coordination of assessment** between agencies in joint commissioning – clear roles, responsibilities and accountability of partners in assessing and meeting needs
- **satisfaction** of parents and carers/satisfaction of c&yp
- the **suitability of EHC plan**, (including where relevant alignment with child in need and child protection plans)
- the **local offer**, including its development, accessibility and currency
- that **planning is appropriate** to meet the needs of children and young people receiving special educational needs and/or disability support.

Question C – outcomes

In order to assess how well the local area improves outcomes, inspectors will evaluate:

- outcomes – across education, health and care
- leaders' assessment of the effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for c&yp

They will look for evidence that the local area has **evaluated and understands its own effectiveness** in meeting the needs and improving the outcomes of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Inspectors will report where the local area does not have a sufficient understanding, for example of the needs of particular groups of c&yp

What are we doing to prepare?

- Ensuring all stakeholders are aware of our key SEND messages
- Gathering evidence to provide to inspectors
- Planning inspection logistics

For further information see the published framework and handbook at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-guidance-for-inspectors>