
Briefing Note on New Local Area Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) Inspection

What is the purpose of this new inspection?

The purpose is to evaluate how well Local Areas are fulfilling their new duties for SEND as set out in the Children and Families Act, 2014 and the SEND 0-25 Code of Practice.

When do they start, who are the inspectors and how long do the inspections last?

These inspections started in May 2016. All 152 Local Areas will be inspected at least once over a five year period. The inspection lasts five days with five days' notice. The inspection team will usually be 3 people – an Ofsted HMI, a Care Quality Commission inspector and an Ofsted trained serving practitioner from another Local Area.

Do we know when Hertfordshire will be inspected?

No but we know there will be 8 Local Areas inspected by the end of July 2016. As we were a Pathfinder for the SEND reforms we think we might be inspected early on.

Does 'Local Area' mean the same as 'Local Authority'?

The Local Area is not just the local authority. It includes the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England, early years settings, schools and further education providers.

What will the inspection evaluate?

The inspection will evaluate how effective the Local Area is as a whole at:

- **identifying the needs** of children and young people with SEND
- **meeting the needs** of children and young people with SEND
- **improving the outcomes** of children and young people with SEND

The inspection team will also evaluate how accurately we know our own strengths and areas for development and how, as partners we are all working together to improve.

Will the inspection focus specifically on children and young people with Education, Health and Care plans?

No. The inspection will cover all children and young people 0-25 with SEND, including those on SEN Support and needing early help. It will also include those in special circumstances with SEND such as looked after children, care leavers, children in need, with a child protection plan, those in alternative provision, missing education, in youth custody, educated at home or out of area.

What will happen before the inspection?

The inspectors will consider a wide range of data to develop an initial picture of the Local Area's performance. They will contact the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executives of the CCG/s to announce the inspection five days in advance and discuss who they wish to meet and talk to and which settings they will visit.

And during the inspection?

During the inspection they will meet leaders and practitioners from Health, Education and Social Care. They will look closely at how all partners are working together, including joint commissioning and how this is making a difference.

The views of children young people and parents will be a strong focus in the evaluation of how effectively the area fulfils its responsibilities. Co-production will be evaluated from the perspective of children, young people and parents at both the individual and strategic level.

The inspectors will visit a range of providers including early years settings, children's centres, schools and colleges as well as health and social care settings. They will meet headteachers, SENCOs, early years and FE representatives as well as social care and health representatives. They will select which settings they visit. They will not be inspecting settings but on the visits they may meet staff, children, young people and parents and review child files. They are likely to look at information such as inspection reports and information on the website about SEND such as the SEN Information Report.

What happens after the Inspection?

The outcomes are reported in a narrative letter that sets out the strengths and key priorities for improvement. This will be published within 33 days of the inspection.

How is Hertfordshire preparing?

We are working together (the Local Authority, with Health and other partners including parent-carers) to finalise a self- assessment. This will be shared shortly with all stakeholders and we will continue to take opportunities to raise awareness of the new inspections.

For further information – see the handbook and framework for the new inspection

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

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

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