



**Children and Young People Scrutiny Review
Board
21 October 2019**

ITEM 07

Report sponsor: Strategic Director People Services
Report author: Policy and Improvement Manager

Inspection of services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

Purpose

- 1.1 In June 2019, Derby's services for children and young people with SEND were assessed by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- 1.2 The inspection focused on evaluating the local area against three key questions...
 - How effectively does the local area identify children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
 - How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
 - How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- 1.3 The findings of the inspection were published in August 2019, and raised concerns about the effectiveness of the local area. As a result, the local area is required to produce and submit a Written Statement of Action (WSoA) to Ofsted, by Tuesday 26 November 2019 that explains how the local area will tackle the following areas of significant weakness...
 - the failure of the local area to take the joint commissioning actions required to implement the reforms across education, health and social care
 - the lack of an overarching coproduced strategy for improving provision for and outcomes of children and young people with SEND
 - the number of significant weaknesses in the EHC processes, timeliness, quality and outcomes of plans
 - the long-standing systemic issues with waiting times to access a large number of key services
 - poor parental engagement with plans for local area SEND provision and high levels of parental dissatisfaction.

- 1.4 The final letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the outcome of the June 2019 SEND inspection, and the need to produce a WSoA.
- 2.2 To note the statutory basis for a requested WSoA.
- 2.3 To note the overall inspection findings, including strengths and areas for improvement.

Reason

- 3.1 All local areas will be inspected under the framework over a five year period. The outcomes of the inspection should be used to shape service developments going forward, with effective scrutiny on the progress that is being made in implementing improvements in line with the WSoA.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The 2014 Children and Families Act and the subsequent 2014 Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice introduced new statutory duties and expectations for local areas from 1 September 2014. The reforms aimed to offer consistent and simpler help for disabled children and young people and their families / carers from birth through to the age of 25 years.
- 4.2 The Minister of State for Children and Families subsequently tasked Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) with inspecting local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling the new duties, and inspections commenced in May 2016.
- 4.3 It is important to note that these inspections intended to evaluate how effectively the local area meets its responsibilities, and not just the local authority. The local area includes the local authority, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England for specialist services, early year's settings, schools and further education providers.
- 4.4 Derby City hosted Ofsted and CQC for our local area inspection of SEND in June 2019, with the final findings being published in August 2019.

- 4.5 There were a number of strengths recognised in the inspection, which included:
- improved outcomes for children in early years and Key Stage 1, with good joint working between education, health and social care
 - vulnerable children and young people with SEND, such as looked after children and those entering the youth offending service, receive good support
 - provision for children and young people in special schools is of good quality
 - children and young people with SEND with identified health needs benefit from Specialist Health Visiting Services and the Children’s Community Nursing Team
 - young people with SEND are well supported into adult life with the majority of young people leaving school and college to enter employment or higher education
 - children and young people with SEND speak positively about their schools and the range of different professionals who help and support them.
- 4.6 The letter did however recognise that not enough progress has been made in the implementation of the reforms, *“despite a more proactive and determined approach by leaders over the last three years”*. As a consequence of this, the local area has been requested to submit a WSoA by Tuesday 26 November 2019.
- 4.7 On receipt of the WSoA, Her Majesty’s Inspector (HMI) will assess whether the statement is fit for purpose, and the relevant Ofsted Regional Director will write to the local area to communicate this assessment. Where HMI assess that the written statement is not fit for purpose, they will make recommendations about how the statement needs to improve. The local area should then make appropriate changes and republish the written statement of action.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Inspectors spoke with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), parents and carers, and local authority and National Health Service (NHS) officers. They visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff and governors about how they are implementing the SEND reforms.

Other options

- 6.1 None.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 Any financial issues pertaining to the actions needed as part of the WSoA will be reported as the plan is developed.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Local area inspections of responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities are carried out under powers contained in section 20 of the Children Act 2004. This section enables Ofsted and CQC to undertake joint inspections of each local area in accordance with a timetable approved by the Secretary of State for Education.
- 8.2 Further, ‘The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015’ require that:
 - ‘The Chief Inspector of Education, Children Services and Skills must (having regard in particular to the nature of the review):
 - (a) determine whether it is appropriate for a written statement of proposed action to be made in light of the report; and
 - (b) if so, determine the person or body (“the principal authority”) who must make this statement.’
- 8.3 Where Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector (HMCI) has determined that a written statement of action is required, the local area must produce this statement within 70 days following receipt of the final inspection report/letter, publish it on local websites and send a copy to Ofsted, CQC and the Secretary of State

Other significant implications

9.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Head of Legal Services	4 October 2019
Finance		
Service Director(s)	Service Director Integrated Commissioning	8 October 2019
Report sponsor	Strategic Director People Services	1 October 2019
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Joint local area SEND inspection in Derby