

The SEND Local Area Inspection and How to Get Involved.

Introduction

The Children and Families Act has been in place since 2014. This Act brought with it several changes to how local authorities and its partners meet the needs of children and young people who are aged between 0-25, who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Minister of State for Children and Families has since tasked Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) with inspecting local areas on their effectiveness in working within these new reforms. These inspections will evaluate how effectively the **local area** meets its responsibilities. 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.

Inspections will provide an independent evaluation of how well a local area carries out its duties in relation to children and young people with SEND. The inspection aims to review how local areas support children and young people with SEND to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, such as being able to:

- ✚ Live independently,
- ✚ Gain meaningful employment and be
- ✚ Prepared for their adult lives.

Although these inspections are designed to hold local areas to account, they will also help identify areas which may require improvement so the local area can further support children and young people with SEND.

What is the inspection looking for?

The inspection will focus on the following points:

- ✚ the effectiveness in identifying children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- ✚ the effectiveness in assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- ✚ the effectiveness of improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities

During the inspection

3 inspectors will visit the local area and stay for a full week. The local area will be informed on a Monday morning that the inspection will take place the following week. During the inspection, the inspectors will visit different education settings which may include early years, primary, secondary and post 16 providers/ colleges. The inspectors will want to speak to staff, children, young people and parents/carers and SEND related services, and will focus on Education, Health Services and Social Care.

Inspection Preparation

The local area has been considering what information the inspectors may need when they arrive. They have been bringing together some focus groups to provide information to the inspectors and answer any questions the inspectors may have during their visit. A parent representative is also present on each of the focus groups. Some of the groups focus on the following topics:

- ✚ preparation for adulthood
- ✚ early years
- ✚ coproduction
- ✚ local offer
- ✚ graduated approach/ SEN Support
- ✚ joint commissioning
- ✚ outcomes

What happens following an inspection?

Following the inspection a report will be written. The report will:

- ✚ provide children and young people, parents, and the local area with an assessment of how well the area is meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND, and how well service providers work together to deliver positive outcomes
- ✚ provide information for the Secretary of State for Education about how well the local area is performing its role in line with its statutory responsibilities and the Code of Practice
- ✚ promote improvement in the local area, its education, health and social care provision
- ✚ where relevant, require the local area to consider the actions that it should take and prepare a written statement that sets out those actions and provide a timescale to move those actions forward.

Do you want to be involved in the inspection?

During the inspection, the inspectors will want to talk with parents and carers, children and young people. If you would like to be part of this inspection, contact SENDIASS on **01709 823627** or email parent.partnership@rotherham.gov.uk and provide your name and contact details including your email address. When we are informed of the inspection, we will write to/email you and let you know how you can share your experience.

The inspection team will also aim to hold a webinar. This will be advertised to parent carers or children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 who live in or access services in the area only. The Webinar aims to gather as many views as possible and will provide you with an opportunity to share your experiences of how the local area supports your child/young person who has SEND.

You may also find it helpful to make contact with the Parent Carer Forum to see how you can be further involved.

Tel: 01709 296262

Email: info@rpcf.co.uk

Further information

If you would like to know more about Local Area SEND Inspections, including what they can't inspect please click [here](#)