

<b>Date:</b>	<b>20 March 2018</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>General Release</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Local Area (SEND) Inspection Brief</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Bi-Borough Children Services</b>
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Policy Context:</b>	<b>Special Educational Needs and Disability</b>
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Report summarises the Local Area Inspection Guidance and what work is currently undertaken in the Local Area as Preparation.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 In September 2014, the Children and Families Act has come into force, and as a result, in April 2016 the Framework and Guidance for the Joint Ofsted and CQC Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspections have been published.
- 2.2 The Local Area SEND Inspection is a Partnership Focus Inspection Type, which means it has no Judgement (such as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate) as the Social Care Single Inspection Framework (SIF) or Schools Inspections. The outcome of the inspection is a report to the Director of Children Services and the most Senior Officer in the Clinical Commissioning Group with strengths of the Local Area and Areas for Improvement. In cases where the Areas for Improvement are significant, the Local Area would need to submit a Written Statement of Action within 70 working days of receipt of the Inspection report.

- 2.3 The Local Area SEND Inspection looks at the Local Area and how the partnership works together in **identifying, assessing and meeting need, and improving outcomes** for Children and Young People with SEN and /or Disability.
- 2.4 The inspection lasts for two weeks (1 week off-site and one week on-site), the Call for the Inspection normally happening on a Monday and inspectors arriving on-site the following Monday. The inspection would only take place during School Term time.
- 2.5 As this is a partnership inspection, it will involve every agency that interacts with the Children and Young People on SEN Support or with an Education Health and Care Plan in the Local Area. This includes the Local Authority (both Children Services and Adults Services), The Clinical Commissioning Group, Schools, Early Years Providers, Colleges, Health Providers, Parent Partnership and the Third Sector (such as Short Breaks Providers).
- 2.6 The Inspectors will meet with Officers from Health and The Local Authority, School/ Nursery Staff, Children and Young People and Parents. This can happen through Focus Groups (on themes, such as Personal Budgets), interviews (for Senior Officers) and webinars (families).
- 2.7 In Preparation for the Local Area SEND Inspection the Bi-Borough is working with Health, Parent Partnerships and other partners to:
  - 2.7.1 Ensure that the data (both child level and population) is easily available and meaningful.
  - 2.7.2 Ensure that the Local Area has all the required policies and strategies in place (Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, SEND Strategy, Joint Commissioning Plan, Short Breaks Statement, Personal Budgets Policy, Preparing for Adulthood Strategy, Travel Policy, etc.)
  - 2.7.3 Ensure that the Local Area has the right governance and processes in place for identify, assessing and meeting need, evidenced through Terms of Reference and minutes of the services (Yes/No Panel, SEN Panel, Transitions Tracking Meeting, Complex Care/Joint Funding Panel, etc.)
  - 2.7.4 Ensure that the Local Area has a common understanding of the Strengths and Areas for Improvement of the partnership, presented to Inspectors as an Executive Summary of our Self-Evaluation.
  - 2.7.5 Ensure that decisions and service design (including the Local Offer) is achieved through co-production with partners and parents, and is evidenced appropriately.
  - 2.7.6 Ensure that the Logistics of the Inspection are planned, so that the inspection runs smoothly.

2.8 In inspections that have taken place since 2016 around the country (around 50 at present), there have been key themes that inspectors focused on:

2.8.1 SEN Support

2.8.2 Preparation for Adulthood (including Transition into Adult Social Care)

2.8.3 Joint Commissioning Arrangements (including access to therapies)

2.8.4 Early Years Identification

2.8.5 Co-production

2.9 In Westminster, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is **everyone's business**, and we would need to demonstrate that the partnership works effectively at **identifying, assessing and meeting need, and improving outcomes** for Children and Young People with SEN and /or Disability.

### 3. Options / Considerations

*n/a*

### 4. Legal Implications

4.1 *n/a*

### 5. Financial Implications

5.1 *n/a*

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact:**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

1. SEND Code of Practice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>
2. SEND Inspection Framework <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>
3. SEND Inspection Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-guidance-for-inspectors>