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TITLE: Ofsted/CQC SEND Inspection

FROM: Children’s Services, Early Help and Learning (Inclusion)

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| **Why is this important**  A new framework and handbook for the Ofsted/CQC inspection of Local Area SEND provision has been issued by the DfE.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-guidance-for-inspectors>  These documents ensure that local authorities and health services, early years settings, schools, further education providers and other organisations are informed about the process and procedures of these inspections and to support local areas in their self-evaluation and ongoing improvement.  It is imperative that those involved are aware of the aspects of the services that the inspection is likely to focus upon, how the inspectors will collate their findings and to be as prepared as possible.  These inspections will commence in May 2016. |
| **What you need to know**   * The inspection will last 5 days and the team will consist of (at least): 1 Ofsted inspector, 1 children’s services inspector from CQC, 1 trained inspector from another local authority. * You may be asked to provide input into the self-evaluation and/or provide case studies demonstrating good practice. * The inspection will provide an independent external evaluation on how well a local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with SEND in order to support their development. * Inspectors will look at a range of children with different needs, of different ages, those in youth justice provision (in custody or secure accommodation), Children Looked After (CLA) and care leavers, children in need and those who have a child protection plan, those in alternative provision or in hospital, children educated at home and children of service personnel. * The inspection will cover provision for both children with an EHC plan and those without a plan. * It will also evaluate how well the local area supports children and young people who are resident in the local area but who attend educational establishments or receive services outside the local authority’s boundaries. * Ofsted/CQC will use a range of information and methods to assess how effectively the local area identifies and assesses SEND children and young people, how effectively the local area meets their needs and how effectively the local area improves the outcomes of those children and young people. * Inspectors will meet managers from education, health and social care services; visit a number of early years setting, schools & FE providers, look at samples of students’ files and information about their progress. * They will also visit health settings and speak to managers and look at health files * Inspectors will engage with children and young people with SEND, as well as their parents and carers to get their views. * Ofsted will consider data on outcomes for children and young people and their destinations after school and the performance of the local area against statutory timescales. * Inspectors will look at outcomes from mediation and tribunals, as well as complaints made to Ofsted and CQC relating to SEND. * Inspectors will assess the accuracy and the rigour of the local area’s self-evaluation, the extent to which the local area knows its strengths and weaknesses, and what it needs to do to further improve the life chances of children and young people with SEND. * They will also scrutinise data on the delivery of healthy child programme and national screening programmes.   **Key Points**  There will be close focus on timely identification and assessment of children and young people with SEND. They will consider the information and evidence gathered including how useful it was and how it was used to inform planning to support children and young people. Inspectors will assess how well organisations work collectively to improve outcomes for children and young people and how well local agencies and bodies plan and co-ordinate their work. They will also make a judgement on how well a child and their parents were involved in the identification and assessment and how well agencies worked together.  There will be a great emphasis on:   * How effectively a child’s needs have been met and to consider evidence that their needs have been met and their outcomes improved. * Having evidence to show how satisfied children, young people and parents are that their needs are being met.   To get feedback from parents, carers and children and young people, inspectors will:   * Meet with them during visits to schools, nurseries and colleges. * Meet with established groups in the area (both of children/young people and of parents/carers) * Use online questionnaires and social media * Look at information already gathered through local consultations and surveys.   **Information and data to be considered by inspectors**   * Outcomes of children and young people with SEND in national assessments * Attendance and exclusion information * Identification data * Post-16 destinations (and NEET figures) * Performance against timescales for statutory assessment * Other inspection reports * The Local Offer * The LA Short Breaks statement * Schools’ and nurseries’ SEN information reports * The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment * The joint health and well-being strategy * The SEND strategic plans used by the local area * The levels of appeals to Tribunal, including cases resolved prior to hearing * Complaints to Ofsted and CQC * Any relevant Serious Case Reviews and their outcomes * Performance information published by DfE and Department of Health * Commissioning and performance data on delivery of the healthy child programme, the school nursing service and the neonatal screening programme * 0 – 25 services for CAMHS, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy (to include commissioned care pathways and specialist arrangements for children with SEND * Evaluation from service users ad how these have influenced commissioning * Data about initial and health review assessments for CLA and SEND * Pathways for referrals to health assessments, 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 for 16 to 25 year olds) * Guidelines on transfer of responsibility * Practical assistance offered in the home (where appropriate) * Provision or assistance in obtaining recreational opportunities * Transport and assistance provided * Support for young people living independently and finding appropriate accommodation and employment * Participation of children and young people with SEND in their communities and wider society. |
| **What do you need to do next** |
| * Provide the LA with any service user feedback evidence you may hold and you feel would be relevant, including case studies and data about outcomes * Be prepared to evidence what difference your service has made to individual families in Cumbria demonstrating the impact of your service to children and young people with disabilities or Special Educational Needs in Cumbria? |

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