

Local Area Inspection of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Briefing for parents and carers

May 2016

What is being inspected?

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be inspecting how well each local area has been putting the SEND reforms into practice in line with new duties introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014. These included the introduction of a new school based support level, SEN Support, Education, Health and Care Plans and the '[Local Offer](#)', which brings together information about education, health and care services for children and young people from 0 to 25 with SEND.

The inspection will focus on:

1. How effectively Oxfordshire is identifying children and young people with SEND.
2. How effectively Oxfordshire meets the needs and improves the outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
3. Evidence of how everyone (education, health, social care, housing and voluntary/community organisations) are working together to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND in all areas of their lives.

Inspectors will check that every organisation is following the new SEND Code of Practice. This is government guidance, issued alongside the Children and Families Act, which tells local authorities, schools, health and many other agencies what they are expected to do to support children and young people with SEND and help them achieve better outcomes.

Principles underpinning the SEND Code of Practice

- *The views, wishes and feelings of the children, young people and their families are important*
- *It is important for a child, young person and their parents to participate as fully as possible in decisions and be provided with information and support to enable their participation.*
- *Children, young people and their parents need to be supported to help them develop and achieve the best possible outcomes that effectively prepare them for adulthood.*



When will the inspection happen and how long will it last?

All local areas will be inspected over a five year period. An inspection could be announced at any point and will take place during term time. We do not know when we will be inspected, but we will receive 5 days' notice of the inspectors' visit. Three inspectors will be in the local area for a week. Two days are likely to be spent at Oxfordshire County Council, two days in early years settings/schools/colleges and services, and the last day will be set aside for feedback.

What happens during the inspection?

The first two days of the inspection will involve a range of meetings and discussions with elected members of the County Council; senior managers/officers from education, social care and health services; parent organisations and young people; leaders of settings, schools and colleges; and voluntary organisations. They will examine the information that Oxfordshire uses for strategic planning, as well as Oxfordshire's self-evaluation. This highlights what is working well and what needs to be improved to help children and young people with SEND achieve the best possible outcomes.

Inspectors will then choose a range of education providers, health services, and other specialist services to visit. They will not be inspecting the quality of provision, but will focus on how well they understand the SEND reforms and how they are working together with other agencies to meet children and young people's needs. The views of young people, parents and carers are central to the inspection, so as part of their visit inspectors will also choose a number of children and parents/carers to meet with directly and will sample children and young people's files. Inspectors will focus on what has changed since the SEND reforms were introduced in September 2014 and what the impact has been.

Before they arrive, inspectors will review national and local data including Oxfordshire-specific outcomes from recent CQC and Ofsted inspections. They will also review children and young people's files, key strategic documents, schools/nurseries' SEN information reports and information on [Oxfordshire's Local Offer](#).

How can I make my views known?

Once the inspection has been announced, inspectors will use social and local media to gather your views and meet with representatives from Parent Carers Voices Oxfordshire, other parent organisations and the SEN Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS – formerly Parent Partnership).

You and/or your child may have the chance to speak directly with inspectors during the inspection, either in the meetings arranged for the first two days or if an inspector visits your child's setting/school/college. This could be a face-to-face meeting or a telephone call depending on what works best for you.

What happens after the inspection?

Within a month of the inspection ending Ofsted and CQC will publish an inspection report in the form of a letter. This will outline the evidence that inspectors reviewed and provide a summary of key findings, including strengths and areas requiring further development. If the report includes areas of significant concern Ofsted and CQC may require a written statement from the local area explaining how these concerns will be remedied.

Find out more...

You can find more information about the inspection at www.gov.uk where you can download the Local Area [SEND Inspection Framework](#) and [SEND Inspection Handbook](#). Mary Rayner, Her Majesty's Inspector, also explains the process in this [Ofsted video](#).

To find out what we think Oxfordshire is good at and what needs to improve, please see Oxfordshire's SEND Strategic Overview Plan, published on the introduction section of the [Local Offer](#).