

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inspection Framework - Update December 2016

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) commenced joint-inspections of services for children and young people from 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in May 2016.
- 1.2 As of Thursday 10 November 2016, fourteen local areas had been inspected under the new framework with all local authority areas scheduled to be inspected over a five year cycle.
- 1.3 Service leads across the City have been working to review local arrangements for 'inspection readiness' alongside priorities for improvement linked to the judgement criteria of the inspection framework (paragraph 4.4).
- 1.4 Iain Peel – Service Director for Learning and Skills will attend the meeting to give Members a presentation on Derby City's current strengths and areas for improvement in line with the inspection framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the key elements of the SEND inspection presented in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5.
- 2.2 To receive the presentation at the meeting on Derby's current self assessment.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Ofsted and CQC are inspecting all local authority areas under the framework. Making sure that staff and members are briefed on the requirements of the framework and current strengths and areas of risk are critical to making sure that a 'good' outcome can be achieved.

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 reforms have had far reaching implications for a number of stakeholders in Derby including health, local authorities (children's social care, adult and education), education providers such as early years, schools, further and higher education institutions and the voluntary and community sector.
- 4.3 Following the introduction of the reforms Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) consulted formally on proposals for inspecting how effectively local areas fulfil their responsibilities to children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The results of this consultation shaped the new joint CQC and Ofsted inspections of SEND, published in April 2016 with inspections commencing in May 2016.
- 4.4 The inspection framework for SEND is broken down into three key parts...
- The effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
 - The effectiveness of the local area in assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
 - The effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 4.5 A key feature of the SEND inspection is that it is assessing the local area rather than a single agency. All areas will be inspected during a five year cycle and inspections will last for five working days (with five working days notification time). Inspections will entail a mixture of individual case tracking, interviews, focus groups and visits to schools and other settings across an area.
- 4.6 There were eight inspections completed between May and July (the summer term), with twelve planned for the autumn term. Key 'early' national findings from inspections to date are below:

Strengths

- Joined-up working and joint commissioning: positive impact on the evaluation of provision.
- Quality of Education, Health and Care plans.
- Quality, accessibility of the local offer and the involvement of parents.
- Stronger evaluation of outcomes in education and care, less so in health.
- Often better identification in early years than in 16-25 year group.

Areas for development

- Transition into adulthood is a challenge in many areas.
- Number of practice areas underdeveloped: provision and pathways for young adults; knowledge about and use of personal budgets.
- Health practitioners are still developing their use of data to track outcomes.
- Local areas often focus on provision and process rather than impact and outcomes.

- 4.7 Since the introduction of the framework Derby City has been working with partners to develop a citywide self-assessment. Iain Peel – Service Director for Learning and Skills will attend the meeting to present Members with a summary of Derby City's current strengths and areas for improvement linked to the inspection framework (paragraph 4.4)

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Andy Smith – Strategic Director for People Services Iain Peel – Service Director for Learning and Skills Heather Greenan – Head of Performance and Intelligence
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Any financial implications pertaining to the inspection will be considered through the presentation.

Legal

- 2.1 New duties on local areas regarding provision of support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities are contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 (the Act), and regulations made under the Act. The duties are amplified in the statutory guidance 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years' (the Code of Practice) published jointly by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department of Health (DoH). These duties came into force in September 2014.

The Minister of State for Children and Families has tasked Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) with inspecting the effectiveness of local areas in fulfilling their new duties.

Personnel

- 3.1 Workforce development issues are picked up through the evaluation framework for the inspection.

IT

- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Equality issues are picked up through the evaluation framework for the inspection.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

9.1 Risks associated to inspections are managed as part of the self-assessment process and on-going preparations. Safeguarding is picked up through the framework with the outcome being an overall external view on the effectiveness of services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The content of this report and supporting presentation underpins the Council pledges of 'safe', 'strong' and 'ambitious'.