

# REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

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**Date of Meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
**Report of:** Kath O'Dwyer, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of People's Services  
**Subject/Title:** SEND Joint Local Area Inspection

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## **1 Report Summary**

- 1.1. This report informs the Health and Wellbeing Board on the joint local area inspection framework for services for children and young people aged 0-25 who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of this report, and the implications of the inspection framework for the Health and Wellbeing Board and the agencies represented; and
  - b) Ensure that activity to develop SEND services is prioritised, and all agencies contribute to the work of the 0-25 SEND Partnership Board and work streams.

## **3 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to improve the health and wellbeing of the children, young people and their families in Cheshire East, reduce health inequalities and promote the integration of services. This includes services for children and young people with SEND.
- 3.2 The joint SEND inspection will assess our effectiveness as a local area in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have SEND.
- 3.3 It is important that the Health and Wellbeing Board is informed of the new SEND joint inspection framework, and is assured that arrangements are in

place to develop our services for these children and young people, and their families.

- 3.4 Clear governance arrangements have been established to drive, implement and scrutinise developments to these services. The 0-25 SEND Partnership Board, led by the Director of Children's Prevention and Support, is driving developments to SEND services. Inspection preparation activity has been aligned with service development activity and is being overseen by this Board.
- 3.5 An action plan is in place to ensure that we are prepared for inspection, which includes;
- Completing self-assessments of the quality of our services to inform the priority areas for development and to demonstrate that we have a good understanding of our strengths and areas for improvement,
  - Communication and engagement with key stakeholders on plans for and progress in developing services, and the inspection framework,
  - Collating key sources of evidence and information on our services to inform the inspection,
  - Refresh of the JSNA sections on SEND, and
  - Quality assurance of casework.
- 3.6 The 0-25 SEND Partnership Board is ultimately accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board and will report progress regularly to them on SEND services and evaluation against inspection criteria.

## **4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- 4.1 Outcome one of *The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the Population of Cheshire East 2014 - 2016*, 'Starting and Developing Well' sets out the Health and Wellbeing Board's priority to ensure that children and young people have the best start in life; they and their families or carers are supported to feel healthy and safe, reach their full potential and are able to feel part of where they live and involved in the services they receive.

## **5 Background and Options**

- 5.1 The framework and handbook for the joint inspection of SEND services was published on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- 5.2 All local areas will be inspected at least once in the next five years.

- 5.3 The inspection is a **local area** inspection reviewing our provision and the quality of services in health, education and social care. For the purpose of the inspection framework, 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.
- 5.4 The inspection will consider the performance of the local area since the implementation of the SEND reforms in September 2014. The focus of the inspection is broad and is wider than our statutory obligations. The inspection will review how well local areas support children and young people with SEND to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- 5.5 The inspection will review our:
- Effectiveness in **identifying** children and young people with SEND, which includes the timeliness of identification and the quality of identification and assessment information
  - Effectiveness in **assessing and meeting need**, which includes co-production of designing and evaluating services with children, young people, parents and carers, the coordination of assessment between agencies, the quality of education, health and care (EHC) plans, needs based joint commissioning and our local offer for families.
  - Effectiveness in **improving outcomes**, which includes outcomes in education, health, and social care, and our assessment of our effectiveness, including the quality and sufficiency of services.
- 5.6 Prior to inspection, our Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and will be reviewed by the inspectors to evaluate our consideration of the needs of children and young people who have SEND. The JSNA sections on SEND are currently being refreshed to ensure that they provide a robust assessment of needs within Cheshire East.
- 5.7 The inspection will involve a lead HMI, an Ofsted Inspector and at least one CQC inspector (dependant on the size of the area, the number of NHS providers and number of CCGs, so it is likely we will have two CQC inspectors for a Cheshire East inspection).
- 5.8 We will receive 5 days advance notice of the inspection, the notification of inspection is on Monday morning between 9.00 and 10.00am. The inspection will last for 5 days from Monday-Friday the following week and should only

take place during school term time. Documentation to support inspection will be requested in advance of the inspection.

- 5.9 The inspection will include a webinar with parents and carers, contact with children and young people, visits to early years settings, schools and colleges, and visits to providers of services for children and young people with SEND, as well as meetings with senior managers and operational groups, and case file reviews.
- 5.10 A judgement will not be given but there will be a published report on the area's strengths and areas for improvement.
- 5.11 A number of areas have already been inspected under the framework, including Brighton and Hove. We are using the learning from these areas to inform our own planning.

## **6 Access to Information**

- 6.1 The framework for the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is available on the website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>
- 6.2 The handbook for the inspection is available on the website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-guidance-for-inspectors>

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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