

**To the Chair and Members of the
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Inspections Framework Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities SEND

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Nuala Fennelly Lead Member Children and Young People	ALL	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. All local areas in England will be inspected during the five year period which commenced in May 2016. Notification is given on a Monday morning, before 10 a.m., of a 5 day inspection to commence the following week.

Inspections will provide an independent external evaluation of how well a local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in order to support their development. It will take into account publicly available data and focus on three key questions during the inspection week:

Question A: How effectively does the local area identify children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?

Question B: How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?

Question C: How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?

Whilst the Local Authority is taking a lead on the SEND self-evaluation planning and preparation prior to and during an inspection, this is a local area joint OFSTED/CQC inspection. The local area is defined as the geographical area and includes the local authority, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England for specialist services, early years' settings, schools and further education providers.

The 0-25 SEND Strategic Board maintains a strategic overview of performance and developments and a cross agency OFSTED/CQC Self-evaluation Planning Group is in place. The Planning Group has developed a

Self-Evaluation Framework, based upon previous OFSTED Inspections, which has been extended to include health and social care. Briefings are available for planned Focus Groups. Regular Highlight Reports have been provided for Damien Allen's Senior Leadership Team. A 'Welcome to Doncaster' pack has been prepared for the Inspection Team which includes contextual information about Doncaster, key contacts, permissions and maps.

A suite of documents and draft timetables have been prepared to ensure that key officers across all agencies can respond effectively from Day 1 of the notification period.

The Self Evaluation document has been organised to set out key strengths and areas for development in the following areas:

- Local roles and responsibilities
- Identification of SEND
- Meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND
- Improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND

The Self-Evaluation document is accompanied by comprehensive Data Booklets, 'How we...' Profiles and individual case studies.

There are three main indicators to measure the success of the SEND system:

- i) A positive experience of the SEND system for children, young people and their families: Doncaster is generally performing well on this indicator;
- ii) Positive outcomes for children, young people and their families: Doncaster is performing well for children and young people with a statutory plan but less so for those with SEN but no statutory plan; and
- iii) Effective preparation for adulthood: Doncaster is in line with the national picture in that more work needs to be done from at least Year 9 (aged 14) to prepare for and offer a range of pathways and opportunities to maximise life chances.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That the panel note and receive the report.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The inspection will review how Doncaster's local area supports children and young people to achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, including being able to live independently, secure meaningful employment and be well prepared for their adult lives.

The inspection will assess the accuracy and rigour of our local area's self-evaluation: the extent to which we know our strengths and weaknesses, and what we need to do further to improve the life chances of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The inspection is intended to hold the local area to account but also to help improve and develop effective processes and support systems in order to deliver better outcomes for children and young people.

Parents/ carers, children and young people will be invited to speak to the inspection team through established focus groups and webinars.

BACKGROUND

5. In September 2014, new duties came into force on local areas regarding provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. These are contained in the Children and Families Act 2014 and amplified in regulations and in the 2015 'Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years'. OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are responsible for inspecting local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling the new duties.

The SEND Reforms include a range of new duties upon the Local Authority and its partners:

- Extension of statutory rights to young people with SEND, up to the age of 25
- Publication of the local area's Local Offer for SEND provision and services in one place
- Completion of statutory Education Health Care Plans for children and young people with significant SEND within 20 weeks
- Extension of personal budgets to some education provision and coordination of support and review with health and care
- LA and Health to commission provision and services jointly
- Parental and child/ young people's voice and influence at a strategic, operational and an individual level.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. This is a statutory requirement and no options are, therefore, proposed.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. As above

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality and improving Outcomes across vital services for Special Education Needs and disabilities. • Increasing opportunity to contribute to Doncaster's economy

	<i>Doncaster's vital services</i>	
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable children young people and adults by improving access to educational opportunity. Increasing resilience and building independency</p>
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>Removing barriers to learning and increasing opportunity to live independently</p> <p>Enabling personal budgets to support independent living</p>
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Maximise the impact of Education Health and Care plans to sustain quality of life</p>
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>Modern and responsive to individual need through Person Centred Planning</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>Joint Stakeholder and co-production to achieve defined outcomes</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. A positive inspection outcome is reliant on stakeholder engagement at a strategic and operational level.

The inspection will provide children and young people, parents, elected council members, local providers, and those who lead and manage the delivery of services at local level, with an assessment of how well the local area is meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND; and how well service providers work together to deliver positive outcomes and improve education, health and social care provision in the local area.

An inspection outcome could require the local area to consider the actions that it should take in light of the report and prepare a written statement that sets out those actions and the timetable for them.

Inspectors will respond accordingly to any concerns of a safeguarding or child protection nature.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. Additional resources are required to maintain current and any new statutory duties; to extend stakeholder engagement; to plan and prepare in advance of an inspection; and potentially to implement further developments identified through self-evaluation or the inspection outcome report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

12. As above

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

13. Additional consideration is needed to implement effective information sharing across key agencies both at a strategic and an operational level.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

14. Considerations under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

CONSULTATION

15. No formal consultation in respect of the inspection framework however engagement with all stakeholders and service users will be undertaken as part of strategic developments and the self-evaluation process over time.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. The following papers are included for reference:

- 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
- The handbook 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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>

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