

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 29 October 2019

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership - Ofsted Revisit Preparation

(Appendices 'A' to 'C' refer)

Contact for further information:

Sarah Callaghan, Tel: 01772 538840, Director of Education and Skills,

Sally Richardson, Tel: 01772 538692, Head of Inclusion Service, Lancashire County Council

Executive Summary

Lancashire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in November 2017 to judge how effectively the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms had been implemented, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The inspection identified two fundamental failings and twelve areas of significant concern.

This report sets out the preparation for the forthcoming Ofsted and CQC re-visit due to take place by the end of October 2019, including the production of a self-assessment.

Recommendation

The Education Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Consider the information presented on the preparation for the forthcoming re-visit by Ofsted and the CQC;
- ii. Discuss and agree any feedback on the self-assessment attached at Appendix 'B'.

Background and Advice

1.1 The Lancashire SEND Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the Written Statement of Action and the updated version known as the SEND Partnership Improvement Plan.

1.2 Progress on these plans has been reported bi-monthly to the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board and the SEND Partnership Board using a Red, Amber, Green rating.

1.3 Where there is a need to increase the pace of improvement, more detailed plans to accelerate progress have been developed; these were agreed by the SEND Partnership Board on 16 September 2019 for five areas of activity i.e. Quality of Education Health and Care Plan's; Education Outcomes; Transition arrangements; Information about the Local Offer; Implementing Neuro-development Pathway.

1.4 Preparation for the forthcoming re-visit by Ofsted and CQC to the Lancashire local area has been taking place; the visit will assess the progress made in addressing the twelve areas of concern detailed in the original report.

2. Re- Inspection of the local area

2.1 The local area is expecting the re-visit to take place before the end of October 2019, in line with the guidance set out in 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 - part 3. A presentation to outline the process will be shared with members of the Education Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 A briefing document which sets out the expectations during the re-visit has been prepared to support the Inspection process. This is attached at Appendix 'A' for information.

2.3 A self-assessment to summarise progress against the initial Ofsted findings and recommendations has been prepared by the local area SEND Partnership. This was shared with the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England at the last review meeting on 19 August and approved by the SEND Partnership Board on 16 September. The self-assessment is attached as Appendix 'B'; it is updated weekly.

2.4 In addition to the detailed self-assessment, a two-page summary of progress has been prepared (attached at Appendix 'C'). All the documents have been shared with partners who work with children and young people with SEND and/or their parent carers.

Consultations

All partners have contributed to the development of the self-assessment. This was approved by the SEND Partnership Board on the 16 September 2019 and shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 10 September 2019.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

If a Local Area is making insufficient progress in any of the serious weaknesses identified it is for the DfE and NHS England to determine the next steps. This may include the Secretary of State using their power of intervention. Ofsted and CQC will not carry out any further revisits unless instructed to do so by the Secretary of State.

Risk management

The SEND partnership's governance arrangements, which include monitoring the implementation of the Written Statement of Action and Improvement Plan, have recently been subject to an Internal Audit Review. The review focused on governance structures, decision making and monitoring processes. The review provided "substantial assurance" about the arrangements in place.

Legal

Local Area inspections of responsibilities for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are carried out under Section 20 of the Children Act 2004. This section enables Ofsted and CQC to undertake joint inspections of each local area in accordance with a timetable approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

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