



LANCASHIRE AREA SEND REVISIT

The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are due to revisit Lancashire to find out if the local area has made sufficient progress to improve the twelve areas of significant concern in SEND support and services identified in 2017.

This guide helps colleagues from the Lancashire SEND Partnership to prepare for the revisit.

PURPOSE

- The Lancashire local area has twelve areas of significant concern in the effectiveness of services for SEND identified by Ofsted and the CQC which require improvement.
- An action plan, called the written statement of action (WSOA), setting out the improvements to be made was required.
- The revisit will assess if the local area has made sufficient progress and importantly started to have an impact on children, young people with SEND and their families.

TIMING

- The revisit will take place over 4 days and is expected by the end of October 2019.
- We will receive ten working days' notice of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) visit.
- The inspection team will be led by and involve the same team of inspectors.

PREPARATION

- A SEND Partnership inspection support team has been set up and a local area nominated officer (LANO) appointed – you can contact them at: SENDPartnershipInspection@Lancashire.gov.uk
- Colleagues from across the SEND Partnership, including parent carers, have written a self-assessment document which is required ahead of the visit.
- This self-assessment provides information and evidence to give an honest and balanced view of our progress so far and the work we still have to do.

OUR VISION AND PRIORITIES

The SEND Partnership has an agreed vision for SEND services and provision; we know there is a great deal of work to be done and we know we are not there yet, we have high aspirations and share a commitment to achieve change. It is our vision to be able to describe our services and our partnership in this way:

We are passionate about planning for and meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities;
We work together, as equal partners, who understand and listen to each other;
Our highly regarded services are child centred, accessible and responsive;
Our children and young people are supported to achieve their potential and ambitions, as valued members of the community.

The SEND Partnership Board has agreed four priorities for our work across the local area and these are driving the SEND Improvement Plan (updated written statement of action)

1

Plan for and meet the needs of children and young people

2

Become equal partners who understand and listen to each other

3

Develop services that are child centred, accessible and responsive

4

Ensure children and young people achieve their potential, aspirations and ambitions

REVISIT READINESS

What's happened since the full inspection in 2017?

- We have formed the Lancashire SEND Partnership which brings together everyone who uses and provides SEND services in Lancashire.
- Our 12-month written statement of action has been updated with a two-year improvement plan from April 2019.
- The Department for Education and NHS England have and continue to monitor our progress.

What happens before the inspectors arrive?

- **Information shared** – we will have had ten working days' notice before the inspection when we will be expected to share our self-assessment and Improvement Plan (WSoA).
- **Timetable agreed** - a plan for the visit will allow the Inspectors time to meet with colleagues and visit education settings, health centres and other services.
- **Meetings planned** - you or members of your team may be requested to meet with the Inspectors; the inspection support team will contact you directly to make sure you know when and where you need to be.
- **Online survey shared** – the survey will be distributed for parent carers to share their views which will help inform the Inspectors judgements.
- **Open meeting arranged** - an open meeting will be arranged for the Inspectors to meet parent carers. Children and young people will take part in school-based meetings throughout the week.

What happens when the inspectors arrive?

Every inspection team operates slightly differently; we can expect the week to be as follows or very similar:

Monday

Inspectors will meet senior leaders from Lancashire County Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups who have overall responsibility for SEND services. An open meeting will be held with parent carers.

Tuesday

Off-site visits begin at schools and health centres. Inspectors will meet children and education colleagues plus partners from health and the Council.

Wednesday

More off-site visits will take place at various settings across Lancashire.

Thursday

Inspectors will hold a meeting with senior leaders to present their observations and feedback and share their provisional judgement.

What happens after the Inspectors leave?

- We will receive a letter from Ofsted within 28 days from the end of the revisit outlining their findings and judgement about our progress.
- Any new areas of concern will also be highlighted in the letter.
- If Ofsted continue to have significant concerns, they have the option of raising this with the Secretary of State who may intervene.
- If Ofsted judge that we are making sufficient progress further monitoring visits from the DfE and NHS England will not be needed.

OUR CONTINUING PRIORITIES

We are committed to and clear about:

- Improving the experiences of children, young people and their families using our services.
- Developing our service practice to meet need.
- Demonstrating that we have made a difference.
- Sustaining our pace to ensure we improve quality.

LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE

- **Commitment** – to improvement.
- **Coherence** – in our approach.
- **Clarity** – about what needs to be done.
- **Challenge** – of ourselves and each other.
- **Courage** – in partnership, to do the right thing.

INSPECTION SUPPORT

If you need information, advice or support please email the Inspection Team using this mailbox

SENDPartnershipInspection@lancashire.gov.uk

Local Area Nominated Officer - Sian Rees

Council Lead – David Middleton

Health Lead - Diane Booth

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Ofsted Inspection Letter (2017)

Written Statement of Action (2018)

SEND Partnership Strategy (2018)

SEND Partnership Improvement Plan 2019-2020, (updated WSoA)
Self-Assessment (2019)