

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	18 January 2019
Subject:	Local Area SEND Inspection by Ofsted and CQC

Summary:

This report provides information about the outcome of the Local Area inspection, undertaken jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, in October 2018. The full findings are appended to this report.

An Action Plan is also appended to the report. This is being monitored through the Special Educational Needs Steering Group and reported to the Children's Services' Quality Assurance Board and the Women and Children's Board.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to note and comment on the outcomes of the Local Area SEND inspection and endorse the Action Plan.

1. Background

Between the 1 and 5 October 2018 Lincolnshire Local Area was inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to judge the effectiveness of the area in the implementation of the duties and responsibilities set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 in respect of children and young people (0-25 years) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The inspection focused on three questions:

- 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.

The inspectors from both Ofsted and CQC conducted Focus Groups with a wide range of professionals including Local Authority Officers, Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF), health service staff and other key partners as well as undertaking visits to Health Teams, Early Years settings, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools and a Further Education College.

In reaching their judgement the inspectorates also tested the accuracy and rigour of our local area's self-evaluation and the extent to which we know our strengths and weaknesses and have appropriate and realistic development plans.

Inspectors met with the LPCF and parents and carers across the county to understand how well the local area engages with them and their children and young people to inform decisions about the strategic commissioning of services and to ensure that these primary users are clear about the identification and assessment processes and the criteria used to make decisions. In all of the educational settings they visited, the inspectors met with children and young people to hear their experiences. They also conducted a week-long online survey for parents and carers to feedback their experiences of the support their children receive through the wide range of services and organisations in the county.

The inspection was thorough and challenging but enabled us to showcase the good practice in Lincolnshire. Since the inspection framework was introduced in 2016 around 60 local areas have been inspected and almost 50% have received a Written Statement of Action because the implementation of the SEND Reforms has been too slow and children and young people with additional needs are not receiving the support they are entitled to. This was not the case in Lincolnshire; inspectors confirmed the many strengths we have in identifying and supporting children and young people with SEND and families were generally positive about their experiences. Young people, in particular, were optimistic about the support they receive from the three main service areas (education, health and social care) and confident about achieving their aspirations.

The final report can be found at Appendix A. It highlights the main strengths that inspectors recognised throughout the inspection. It also includes areas for development that were identified by the inspectorates. There were no surprises; the areas for development were those that the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Groups had identified in our Self-Evaluation. These form part of a wider Action Plan which is being managed through the SEND Steering Group. The relevant actions identified through the joint inspection are included at Appendix B.

2. Conclusion

The joint Ofsted and CQC inspection identified many strengths in Lincolnshire. Those areas that require improvement have a specific focus which is being monitored through the SEND Steering Group and reported to the Children's Services' Quality Assurance Board and the Women and Children's Board to ensure that the improvements required are responded to promptly. The

improvements will strengthen further the positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with additional needs in the county.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Not Applicable

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire's Final Outcome Letter (Ofsted)
Appendix B	Action Plan (extract relating specifically to inspection findings)

5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
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	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework

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