

**Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director –
Children’s Services**

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	09 October 2020
Subject:	Local Area SEND Inspection by Ofsted and Care Quality Commission – Update on Action Plan

Summary:

This report provides an update on the Action Plan initially presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in July 2019 following the joint inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in October 2018.

The Action Plan is appended to this report. It is monitored through the SEND Steering Group, the SEND Health Committee and Children's Services' Quality Assurance Board.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the updated Action Plan of the Local Area SEND Inspection.

1. Background

Between the 1st and 5th 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 full report was presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in January 2019 and highlighted the many strengths that the inspection identified in the local area. This is set against a backdrop in which around two thirds of all Local Authority areas inspected since May 2016 have received a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) because of serious weaknesses. The Department for Education commended Lincolnshire and since the inspection a number of other areas have visited to see how the local area is meeting the needs of this vulnerable group of children and young people.

A number of areas for development 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 the joint Self-Evaluation. The Action Plan was initially presented to the Committee with the Ofsted findings. Progress against the actions is managed through the SEND Steering Group. The updated Action Plan can be found at Appendix A and illustrates the progress that is being made against the areas for development.

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, the SEND Health Committee and reported to the Children's Services' Quality Assurance Board. Progress has been made against all of the actions. These 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?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Action Plan Update September 2020

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

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
Lincolnshire's SEND Inspection Outcome Letter	https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50041170

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