



**CABINET**

**14 FEBRUARY 2017**

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN FAMILIES AND EDUCATION: LESLEY HAGGER**

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES:  
COUNCILLOR MATTHEW GOLBY**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform and Local Area Inspection OFSTED</b>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet note the report in the context of the following, that the Local Authority must be confident that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They understand their responsibilities in relation to the SEND reforms and inspection</li> <li>2. All staff and elected members who may meet with inspectors have a good understanding of the reforms and what has been achieved so far</li> <li>3. Relevant, identified individuals attend all pre-inspection meetings.</li> </ol>

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 From May 2016, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) began inspecting how local areas are meeting their responsibilities to disabled children and young people, and those with special educational needs (SEND) under the Children and Families Act 2014.
- 1.2 The inspection explores how the local area is implementing and fulfilling the new duties, outlined in the Act.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to ensure all parties are fully aware of their responsibilities, the latest developments and any areas of concern.

**2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan**

- 2.1 The Council's vision is to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work. This is achieved through increasing the wellbeing of your county's communities and/or safeguarding the county's communities.

<p>This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and safeguarding by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People of all ages are safe, protected from harm and able to live happy, healthy and independent lives in our communities.</li> <li>• People have the information and support they need to make healthy choices and achieve wellbeing.</li> <li>• People achieve economic prosperity, in a healthy, low carbon economy which give access to jobs, training and skills development.</li> </ul>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resources are utilised effectively and efficiently, in coordination with partners and providers.</li></ul> |
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### **3. Background**

The implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 included the establishment of a new SEND inspection framework of local areas. The inspections commenced in May 2016 and all areas will be inspected within five years.

Senior managers and Elected Members across the Northamptonshire Local Area must ensure that they are meeting their responsibilities under this legislation.

In order to ensure a positive inspection we need to be able to evidence multi-agency working, an awareness of areas of good practice and areas of concerns with a robust action plan in place to address these issues. The inspectors will look to identify improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND in light of the new legislation.

#### **3.1 SEND reform**

The SEND reform identifies the following areas which agencies must evidence:

- Effective partnership working/co-production with children and young people, and their parents and carers to understand their needs, deliver effective support and achieve improved outcomes.
- Early Years providers, schools and colleges work in partnership with the local authority and social care and health services to identify and meet these needs effectively.
- Education, health and social care work closely together to jointly commission the support and services children and young people require.
- The published Local Offer is easily accessible, sets out the support for SEND available in the local area and it supports the involvement of children and young people, and their parents and carers, in decision-making about the local provision.
- All parties agree aspirational yet realistic targets for young people and monitor their progress towards them.
- Person Centred Planning and Delivery across all partners.
- Extension of age range to 0-25.
- Focus on preparation for adulthood from the earliest years.

#### **3.2 Inspection focus**

The local area SEND inspection will use a range of methods to gather and evaluate the effectiveness of the local area in fulfilling its duties under the Act. Inspectors will gather evidence to assess the effectiveness of the local area by pursuing three lines of enquiry:

- How effectively does the local area identify children and young people with SEN and Disability?
- How effectively does the local area assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND?
- How effectively does the local area improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND?

### **3.3 Current Situation**

We are now 2 and a half years into the 3 and a half year implementation cycle. A total of 1762 statements of special educational needs have been transferred to Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans and the remaining 1102 will be transferred by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. All new assessments have been processed through the EHC system since September 2014.

The Local Offer is established and has been recognised for good practice in an independent report to DfE.

The post of Designated Clinical Officer, Rachel Akers based in NHFT, has been commissioned by the CCG and works closely with all partners to support implementation and continuous improvement. This is a very successful arrangement which we believe should be replicated within social care with identified key individuals across children services, transitions and adults to support full implementation of the reforms. Engagement with education providers is on-going, the extension of statutory duties to the older age group is one area of significant challenge of the reforms.

The Disabled Children and Young People's Delivery Group (DCYPDG) attended by all statutory agencies, voluntary sector and representatives from parent and young people forums leads the implementation of the reforms and preparation for inspection. The DCYPDG reports in to the Health and Well Being Board (HWB), and updates the board of developments four times a year. The information re the peer review/dummy inspection was presented to the HWB in January 2017.

Strategic engagement with parents, children and young people is positive with some clearly evidenced highly effective practice. Feedback from those parents who are new to the EHC process are positive in their views that they and their child's views are sought and evident throughout the process and final EHC plans.

### **3.4 Next Steps**

In order to be confident that we are ready for the SEND Local Area Inspection we are undertaking a peer review from 3rd to 5th May 2017. This will be led by colleagues from Derbyshire and cover agreed key lines of enquiry.

This peer review will be treated as a 'dummy inspection' and therefore senior managers, across all agencies, and elected members will be required to attend an initial meeting with inspectors. A timetable and briefing papers will be distributed nearer the time.

It is essential that all agencies are confident of their responsibilities within the SEND reforms as a full inspection could happen at any time with only 5 days' notice. Each service area needs to have identified leads who will act as key contact during the peer review and the SEND Local Area Inspection.

Inspectors will inform the LA of the areas they are concentrating on and the specific visits/meetings they wish to attend on notification of inspection.

#### 4. Consultation and Scrutiny

- 4.1 Parents and young people are fully engaged in the implementation of this legislation, and are fundamental in strategic planning and ensuring the delivery of these reforms.
- 4.2 Children Learning and Communities Committee are aware of these reforms and the responsibility this places on the Local Authority and their partners.

#### 5. Equality Screening

<b>Reason that no EqIA is required</b>	<b>✓ as appropriate</b>
The paper is for information only	✓
The proposal/activity/decision has no impact on customers or the service they receive	
The proposal impacts upon staff but the proposed staffing changes will not affect the service that customers receive*	
Other (please explain further)	

#### 6. Alternative Options Considered

N/A

#### 7. Financial Implications

The financial implications in implementing these reforms have been met by a grant from Central Government.

#### 8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
None		

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
If all partners are not fully engaged and aware of their responsibilities this could lead to a poor inspection outcome. This could in turn lead to further inspections by OfSTED or CQC of individual educational establishments and statutory agencies.	Amber

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Background Papers:	
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	NO
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	N/A
Will further decisions be required? If so, please outline the timetable here	N/A
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	N/A
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board (CIB)	N/A Information only - See "Purpose of report"  Name of SFM:
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Lesley Hagger
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Matthew Golby
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	YES Scrutiny Committee: Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of officer: Laurie Gould
	Solicitor's comments:
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES – Communication Strategy in place Name of officer: Joni Ager
Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	N/A Information only - See "Purpose of report"
Are there any community safety implications?	N/A
Are there any environmental implications:	N/A
Are there any Health & Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	N/A

