

# All Different, All Equal: SEND Improvement

## Joint Local Area SEND revisit

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have announced (17 January) that they will be carrying out a re-visit to Dudley on 31 January.

The purpose of the re-visit is to determine whether the local area has made sufficient progress in addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed in the [written statement of action \(WSOA\)](#) that was approved by the Department for Education in December 2019 following the borough's [joint local area SEND inspection in May 2019](#).

### The re-visit inspection team

The inspection team will be on site from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January until either Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The team consists of:

- Wayne Simner – Lead HMI (Ofsted)
- Chris Pollit – HMI (Ofsted)
- Kay Goodfellow – Inspector (CQC)
- Peter Humphries – HMI Quality Assurance (onsite)
- Lucy Hart – CQC Quality Assurance (remote)

### Areas of Focus

During the re-visit, inspectors will want to explore:

- area leaders' understanding of the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND in their area and on the local SEND system more widely
- how leaders have used their understanding to adapt their plans to address the areas of significant weakness detailed in the WSOA including at looking at policies and data
- how the local area has involved children and young people with SEND and their families in co-producing decisions about how best to support them
- worked collaboratively to prioritise, adapt and provide the services and support that children and young people with SEND and their families need

Inspectors will also be talking with children and young people, the parent carer forum and other stakeholders including schools, colleges health, members and local authority services.

They will also be looking at a snapshot of individual cases.

Inspectors will also devise questions for parents and carers to answer through an online survey. They will share these questions in advance with the Parent Carer Forum to ensure that they are appropriately phrased. The survey will go live on Monday 24 January 2022 at midday and will close on Friday 28 January 2022.

We will promote the survey along with a letter from the inspectors across all of our channels to ensure that parents and carers have an opportunity to have their say.

A draft inspection timetable is detailed at the end of this briefing and will be confirmed on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### **What happens next?**

A letter will be issued normally within 33 working days of the end of the inspection. Inspectors will detail the findings of the visit.

If a Dudley is deemed to have made sufficient progress in addressing all of the areas of significant weakness, the DfE and NHS England will stop making their formal quarterly support and challenge visits.

On the flip side if we are considered to be insufficient progress in addressing any of the areas of significant weakness, the Department for Education and NHS England to determine the next steps. This may include the Secretary of State using their powers of intervention. Ofsted and the CQC will not carry out any further re-visits unless directed to do so by the Secretary of State.

Ofsted will publish the final letter on the [local authority SEND section of Ofsted's reports website](#), The CQC will publish it on its website alongside reports arising from other local area children's inspection and review activity.

They may also use this information to determine the timing of the local area's next inspection under any future area SEND inspection framework.

For information, please contact [Matthew.Smith@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Smith@dudley.gov.uk)

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Inspection timetable*		
	Local Area/inspector activity or meeting focus	
	AM	PM
Thursday 20 Jan		Local Area provide any readily available evidence to show impact of leaders' actions to inspectors
Friday 21 to Friday 28 Jan	HMI and CQC inspector review evidence and identify activities	Telephone call between HMI, CQC inspector, LANO and health equivalent to plan draft schedule
Monday 24 Jan		<b>Online survey for parents</b> goes live at midday.
Friday 28 Jan	<b>Online survey for parents</b> closes at midday.	
Monday 31 Jan	Meeting with <b>senior leaders</b> from the local area who have overall responsibility for the WSOA	Meeting with leaders to discuss <b>SEND Strategy</b> including approach to assessment and provision mapping.
		Meeting to discuss <b>joint commissioning</b>
		Meeting with <b>Parent Carer Forum</b>
		Meeting with <b>SENDIASS</b>
		Meeting to discuss <b>identification of need</b>
		<b>Review of EHC plans</b> (identified prior to the inspection). Inspectors will review a selection of EHCPs including health and social care involvement
		Meeting <b>mainstream primary and secondary leaders and SENCOS</b>
Meeting with <b>specialist provision leaders and SENCOS</b>		

<b>Tuesday 1 February</b>	Meeting with <b>social care</b>	Meeting with <b>primary and secondary school pupils</b>
	<b>Review of EHC plans</b> (identified prior to the inspection). Inspectors will review a selection of EHCPs including health and social care involvement	Meeting with <b>specialist provision pupil groups</b>
	Meeting with <b>Further Education (Post 16, 18/19) leaders and SENCOS</b>	Meeting with <b>Alternative Provision/Pupil Referral Unit pupil groups</b>
	Meeting with <b>Designated Medical Officer</b>	Meeting to discuss <b>outcomes</b> (including academic progress, absence, exclusion, Not in Education Employment or Training, complex needs and progress into employment)
	Meeting with <b>post 16 &amp; 18/19 pupil groups</b>	Meeting to discuss <b>Local Offer</b>
	Meeting with <b>parents and carers</b>	Meeting to discuss the <b>EHCP panel</b>
		Meeting to discuss <b>health issues</b>
<b>Wednesday 2 February</b>	Review EHCP/surveys etc	Report provisional outcome to leaders

*\*Please note the above timetable is subject to change and timetable will be confirmed on 28/01/2022.*