

23/01/2019

Dear colleagues

Local Area inspection of the effectiveness of SEND in Kent County Council

The below announcement and information is for education, health and social care providers who are responsible for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities from Kent.

This letter is for the attention of providers who have not been selected for an inspection visit as part of the LA SEND inspection of Kent.

When will the Ofsted and CQC LA SEND inspection of my local area take place?

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will carry out a joint inspection of your local area from Monday 28 January 2019 to Friday 01 February 2019.

This inspection will evaluate Kent's effectiveness in:

- identifying the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- meeting the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

During this inspection, the inspectors will collect information about children and young people in the area. They will be looking at local area records, speaking to area officers and leaders at educational settings, and speaking to children, young people and parents or carers. No names will be recorded, but some of the information collected may be capable of identifying a particular child, young person or adult. Ofsted and CQC will use this information to prepare their report, and for the purposes set out in their privacy notices. No information will be published that identifies any individual in the inspection report.

More information is available in the Ofsted and CQC privacy notices which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-privacy-notice/social-care-ofsted-privacy-notice#local-area-send-inspections>

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/about-us/our-policies/privacy-statement>

Ofsted's Data Protection Officer is the Director, Digital and Information who may be contacted at informationrequest@ofsted.gov.uk. CQC's Data Protection Officer is the Head of Governance and Legal Services who may be contacted at information.access@cqc.org.uk

Whilst the Ofsted and CQC inspection team will not visit your institution/provision as part of the LA SEND inspection, gathering the views of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and the views of their parents and carers is an important part of our evidence.

How can local children, young people, parents and carers contribute their views during this local area inspection?

There are several ways in which children, young people, parents and carers from your provision can engage with the inspection process and contribute their views:

1. The inspection will include an online recorded webinar to allow Kent's parents and carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to contribute. The webinar will take place from 12 noon on Monday 21 January 2019 until 4pm on Tuesday 29 January 2019.

Parents and carers who would like to take part in this webinar can follow this internet link to register: <http://bit.ly/LASENDwebinarKentCountyCouncil>

2. Parents and carers can contact their local Parent Carer Forum to request details of how they can attend to the discussions held between parents and carers and the Ofsted/CQC inspection team.

3. Parents and carers can email their contributions to Lasend.support@ofsted.gov.uk.

4. Details about the local area SEND inspection will be available on your local authority's website and distributed through the local area's Clinical Commissioning Group/s (CCGs). Information about how children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities can share their views about the local area's effectiveness should be included in the local offer.

Important information for parent and carers

While we understand that many parents and carers may have views on their experience that extend before the implementation of the SEN reforms in September

2014, it is important that the views that are shared with inspectors relate to experiences from this date onwards.

We would also like parents and carers to understand that we will not be able to follow up or comment upon individual cases. The inspection team will consider all communication from parents as part of the evidence when evaluating the effectiveness of the local area.

Information on local area duties toward children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities can be found on the Department for Education's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>.

Can you please circulate the information contained in this letter to all of the parents and carers of children and young people who attend your provision, live in Kent have special educational needs and/or disabilities? I have provided a template called 'Letter to Area parents' for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

Phil Minns
Her Majesty's Inspector