

Southend-on-Sea Education Board

on

7th June 2017

Report prepared by:

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Report Title: SEND Joint Area Inspection of SEND by OfSTED and CQC
Agenda Item: 8

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is to update Board on the impending SEND/CQC inspection, and share the preparations that we and other partners are undertaking.

2. Recommendations

2.1 For Board to note the inspection preparation arrangements

2.2 For Board to encourage through their various constituencies awareness and support for a future inspection.

3. Background/Context

Ofsted and CQC jointly inspect local areas to see how well they fulfil their responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The responsibilities are set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and amplified in regulations and in the 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'. The Code of Practice is statutory guidance published by the Department for Education and the Department of Health. The duties came into force in September 2014. To date 30 local area inspections have taken place.

The inspection will be for 5 days (with one week notice) and will look at both the Local Authority and Health.

4. Summary of the preparations so far

4.1 An inspection preparation team are meeting regularly and have an action plan in place.

4.2 In order to strengthen our preparations for this inspection an independent thematic peer review will take place on July 12th and 13th the key question of the review is:

'Do all stakeholders have a clear and shared understanding of their respective responsibilities and duties in identifying and supporting learners with SEND?'

4.3 The inspection outcome letters of the first 20 inspections have been analysed and the findings summarised. An emerging theme for several outcome letters

provided particularly useful feedback regarding weaknesses around health readiness.

4.4 To ensure clarity on the current position, strategically and operationally we are currently completing an audit of performance of SEND and drafting a SEF accordingly.

4.5 Feedback on the inspection process from authorities who already have been inspected has been being analysed.

4.6 A meeting between the strategic leaders for the Local Authority and Health is being arranged to ensure joined up and prepared thinking.

4.7 Following the prescribed format, a meeting schedule has already been established, and invitation sent out for the Peer review, as a “dry run” for the full inspection.

5. Implications of the report

5.1 Financial implications

No additional implications

5.2 Consultation

None required, although engagement of parents, families and children is a key feature of successful SEND provision.

5.3 Risk associated with the report

The inspection does not lead to a judgement in the same way a school is judged. However the report is made public. Contingent upon what the inspectors find, a letter is written outlining all of the findings. If the team have concerns then they can issue the requirement for the Area to write a statement of action on how they intend to address then weaknesses found.

6. Background Papers

None