



---

**To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Subject: SEND Update**

---

**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Board 2 on Coventry Local Area preparation for a SEND Local Area inspection.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the content of the briefing note
  - 2) Identify any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 In 2016, the Government commissioned OfSTED (Office for Standards in Education) and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) to conduct a five-year cycle of joint inspections, to monitor the progress of local areas in implementing the SEND reforms. The new statutory duties for education, health and care were set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The first cycle of inspections is nearing completion. The final inspections will happen no later than the Spring Term 2021.
- 3.2 The aim is to "hold local areas to account and champion the rights of children and young people". In particular, the local area health, social and education services are required to work together to:
- publish a 'local offer' setting out the support and provision in the area for children and young adults with special educational needs or disabilities (or both)
  - provide accessible information to children and young people, as well as parents and carers, about the services and support available in the local area
  - work with children and young people, their parents and carers, and service providers to make sure that any special needs or disabilities (or both) are identified as early as possible
  - assess (in co-operation with children and young people and their parents and carers) the needs of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (or both) who may need an education, health and social care plan (EHCP)
  - produce an EHCP for all children and young people who are assessed as needing one (all relevant agencies should cooperate to do this and involve the children and young people and their parents and carers)
  - provide children and young people with the support agreed in their EHCP, and regularly review their plans

#### **4 The National Landscape:**

- 4.1 As at September 2019, 96 of the 152 inspections had been completed and reports published. Forty-eight inspections concluded that a statement of written action (STOWA) was required. This means that the inspectors have found “significant areas of weakness in the local areas practice” in 50% of local areas overall.
- 4.2 In 2018/19 a total of 30 inspections took place. 21 of which (70%) required a STOWA.
- 4.3 There are 14 Local Areas across the West Midlands region. Of the 10 inspections conducted so far, six have resulted in a STOWA. One Local Area (Sandwell) has been re-visited’ and it was confirmed that adequate progress had been made and a STOWA was no-longer required. There are four remaining local areas across the West Midlands awaiting inspection: Coventry, Shropshire, Warwickshire and Wolverhampton. These will be conducted one per term between Autumn 2019 and Spring 2021. The Local Area will receive 5 days notice, of the 5 day inspection.
- 4.4 Over the course of the 5-day inspection, inspectors will meet managers and leaders from the area’s education, health and social care services and look at young people’s case files. They will review the support provided by the local area for some individual children and young people to better understand how well the local area meets its responsibilities overall. They will also visit early years settings, schools, further education providers and specialist services.
- 4.5 Further information on the inspection framework is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework> . Examples of outcome letters can be found at: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

#### **5 Coventry preparation:**

- 5.1 Working with partners across the Local Area, Coventry remains focused on the continuous improvement of the key statutory areas, specifically the identification of children and young people with SEN (age 0 to 25) across the City; the quality of assessment, the impact of provision and ultimately outcomes in adulthood. Children and young people have told us that they want to enjoy an ‘ordinary life’ which in adulthood includes having full access to community activities, positive relationships and meaningful paid employment. These principles underpin the SEND strategy ‘Lifting the Cloud of Limitation’.
- 5.2 Coventry Local Area has reviewed last years integrated education, health and care self-evaluation for 2019/20, setting out evidenced progress, strengths and areas for further development. The joint self-evaluation continues to focus on the three inspection questions: How well do we identify need, meet need and improve outcomes. The self-evaluation is informed by a comprehensive dataset.
- 5.3 Partners have ensured that when Coventry receive notification of the inspection, all required documentation is available to share with the inspectors and that a logistics and communication plan is in place, evidencing strong governance and partnerships between education, health, social care, Coventry Parent Carer Forum and the young people’s shadow board.

**Name: Jeannette Essex**

**Job Title: Head SEND and Specialist Services**

**Contact Details: Email [jeannette.essex@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:jeannette.essex@coventry.gov.uk). Tel: Skype 024 7697 7028**