

Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

13th December 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor P Seaman

Director approving submission of the report:

Kirston Nelson, Chair of SEND Board

Jeannette Essex, Head of SEND and Specialist Services

Ward(s) affected:

All Coventry

Title: SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Inspection Preparation

Is this a key decision?

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

Executive summary:

In 2023, OFSTED and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) began to implement the new Local Area SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). and AP (Alternative Provision) inspection framework. The purpose of this inspection is to:

“provide an independent, external evaluation of the effectiveness of the local area partnership’s arrangements for children and young people with SEND and where appropriate, recommend what the local area partnership should do to improve the arrangements.”

The new framework has an equally strong focus on education, health and social care. It is therefore important that all partners continue to work together, to ensure that the local area is inspection ready. It is expected that all local areas will be inspected within a five-year cycle. Governance oversight is provided through the SEND and AP Partnership Board.

Coventry was previously inspected in October 2019 under a different framework and received a positive outcome. The report is available at [Coventry Local Area Inspection Outcome](#)

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- 1) **Note the progress made so far and advise on any further work required, taking into account further local intelligence;**

- 2) **Agree the governance proposals;**
- 3) **Determine the accountability and reporting frequency required by the Board, including approval off the revised Joint Commissioning Strategy**

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Data Supplement JSNA

Appendix 2 – Draft Narrative JSNA update 2023

Background papers:

New inspection framework:

[Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/area-send-inspections-framework-and-handbook)

Previous Coventry SEND Local Area inspection report:

[50136767 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/50136767)

Other useful documents

Coventry SEND Strategy 2019 – 2022

[SEND Strategy 2019 to 2022 – Coventry City Council](#)

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

SEND Board 11th December 2023

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Preparing the Coventry system for a SEND Inspection

1. Context (or background)

A new OFSTED and CQC joint local area SEND and AP inspection framework, was enacted In March 2023. In response Coventry local area (City-wide partnership) must complete a self-evaluation against the new criteria in readiness for inspection. This report provides an overview of the systematic partnership work, which is underway to measure the City's current compliance against the new measures. Activity completed in the first phase of review, includes a complete refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to update the overview of the needs of the City's changing population. This analysis should then inform the joint commissioning strategy.

The JSNA also informs the City-wide co-produced self-evaluation analysis. The SEF is designed to mirror the inspection framework identifying both the area's strengths; and priority areas for further development, which will be encapsulated in an agreed partnership action plan. Finally, it is intended to review the SEND and AP Inclusion Strategy. The planned timeline for completion of the whole process concludes in July 2024.

The overall work is overseen by a refreshed SEND and AP Board, which includes representation from all agencies, schools, colleges and most importantly parents. The board meets on a 6-weekly basis, However, to be fully effective and accountable the SEND and AP Partnership Board should sit within a corporate governance structure.

In terms of progress to date, it is confirmed that:

- The SEND and AP Partnership Board meets the inspection criteria, has appropriate membership in terms of breadth and seniority, has a clear understanding of the inspection framework and is providing appropriate support, scrutiny and challenge to all partners ensuring that the parental voice is heard.
- The 2020 JSNA has been reviewed to reflect the current city-wide landscape highlighting the significant increase in both the general and 'SEND' population, which has significantly changed between pre and post pandemic periods.
- The new Self Assessment Form (SEF) is at final draft stage, subject to further and wider consultation. The SEF evidence base highlights areas of strength/best practice alongside areas for further development.

Priority areas include:

1. Securing a formal partnership agreement of a Joint Commissioning Strategy;
2. Securing a sufficiency of specialist places, in response to unprecedented system demand;
3. Building a sustainable and effective workforce in terms of recruitment, retention, skills and expertise within the mainstream school sector;
4. Access to an integrated data set owned by all agencies, which will further inform priorities and agreed performance measures and accountability;
5. Further strengthen the governance structure which binds all partners to work together; and ensure that children, young people and their families can access the services they need at the right time and in the right place through integrated working.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal:

The SEND inspection is not an inspection of Coventry City Council but an inspection of the wider local area partnership. The inspection is primarily focused on the outcomes for children with additional needs at all levels of the system, not just those with an Education, Health and Care Plan. Inspectors will be interested in 'what it feels like to be a child in Coventry' and will make a

determination on how well services work together to support children, young people and their families.

Of particular relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Board is: Priority 5 “Further strengthen the governance structure which binds all partners to work together; and ensure that children, young people and their families can access the services they need at the right time and in the right place through integrated working”

It is noted that whilst the SEND and AP Partnership Board provides strong oversight, there is no overarching board to oversee that work. It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board is best placed to close that gap, because its membership brings together all agencies including education, social care, the ICB, Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillors with a broad range of portfolios.

The board is therefore asked:

To consider providing governance oversight of the SEND and AP Partnership Board

3. Results of consultation undertaken

The SEND partnership board brings together all relevant partners to ensure that decisions are representative of all stakeholder views.

The JSNA has been written in partnership, with extensive consultation on the content and the emerging recommendations. A teacher survey is underway, parent consultation has taken place. There will be further opportunity to consult once the recommendations have been agreed and an implementation phase develops.

The draft SEF has been co-produced with children, young people, families and the wider partnership and will be subject to a wider formal consultation before finalisation.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

The first stage of this work will be completed by the end of January 2024. It is anticipated that an overarching strategy with action plan will be in place by April 2024. The governance structures continue to evolve. It is intended that the whole process will be completed by July 2024 at which point the action plan will be subject to scrutiny against progress. It is not anticipated that Coventry will be subject to an inspection before July 2024.

5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

5.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report. The report is for information and governance purposes only at this stage,

5.2. Legal Implications

This report references partners statutory duty in relation to part 3 of The Children and Families Act and the inspection framework.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

Children with additional needs typically experience poorer outcomes than their peers and therefore fall within priority 3 of the One Coventry Plan 'Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities'. This work is centric to realising Coventry's current SEND Strategy 'Raising the Cloud of Limitation' to achieve an ordinary life, which was coproduced by Coventry children and young people.

From a workforce perspective, we need to ensure that these young people can contribute to the economic prosperity of the city by being economically active.

From a health Inequalities perspective, ensuring we support these young people to live healthy happy lives will reduce the health inequalities for people with Learning Disabilities, who suffer disproportionately from both Mental Ill health and Physical ill health.

6.2. Equalities / EIA?

Currently there is no requirement for an EIA as the plans presented are structural. We will ensure that the outs from this workstream are effectively assessed for increasing inequality.

6.3. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

There are no implications at this point as the JSNA is a research activity. Consideration will be given to any environmental impact arising from travel distance and modes of travel to school in the strategic review of provision.

6.4. Implications for partner organisations?

The impact on partnership organisation is positive as we formalise the reporting mechanisms and ensure that all partners are aware of new arrangements supporting SEND governance.

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Service Area:

Joint report between: Childrens Services, Public Health and Education and Skills on behalf of the SEND and AP Board