

**Name of meeting: Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Title of report: SEND Area Inspection**

**Purpose of report**

**To update elected members about the preparations and readiness for a potential SEND Area Inspection.**

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name  Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?  Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Steve Walker – 23.02.18
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllrs Ahmed and Cllr Kendrick

**Electoral wards affected: all**

**Ward councillors consulted: none**

**Public or private: Public**

## 1. **Summary**

Since the change to legislation (Children and Families Act 2014) and the instigation of an inspection framework to monitor compliance (May 2016), all Local Authorities can expect to participate in an **area** inspection within five years (up to May 2021). The inspection will address three key themes:

How effectively the local area identifies children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) 0 – 25 years of age

How effectively the local area provides for this cohort

How effectively the local area ensures positive outcomes for the cohort.

Inspectors will give one week's notice and the inspection will last for one week. The inspection team will comprise of a CQC Inspector, and LA Inspector and an HMI. During the inspection week, particular focus will be given to the views of the CYP themselves and their parents/carers. In addition, inspectors will review our data and provision, and will speak to a range of leaders across the Council (Social Care and Education) and across Health.

In order to prepare for the inspection there have been a number of briefings for key staff across the Council and Health, and a Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) has been developed with partners. The implementation of the SEND reforms and the preparation for an inspection is overseen by the SEND Strategy Group.

The officers who oversee this inspection are aware of the strengths and areas for development of SEND identification, provision and outcomes and these are outlined in the SEF. Full use has been made of the DfE- allocated SEND Reform Grant, now in its last year, and work to develop our practice within the new reforms continues.

## 2. **Information required to take a decision**

The SEF outlines our evaluation of our strengths and areas for development.

## 3. **Implications for the Council – not applicable for this update.**

### 3.1 **Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)**

### 3.2 **Economic Resilience (ER)**

### 3.3 **Improving Outcomes for Children**

### 3.4 **Reducing demand of services**

### 3.5 **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

## 4. **Consultees and their opinions – not applicable for this update**

## 5. **Next steps**

- To continue to develop the LA Self-Evaluation Form so that it reflects an ever-changing context, and that new post holders are aware of their responsibilities in relation to this inspection.
- To continue to work with managers in Social Care to ensure their understanding of their responsibilities in relation to SEND.

- To build upon the positive developments with colleagues in Health through the work of the Transformation Plan, the Healthy Child Programme, and more widely through our Health Champions.
- To continue to work in partnership with our schools and settings, and through our SENCO Champions, to build capacity to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, and to link this work to the High Needs Review.
- To review SENACT in order to address capacity issues and ensure compliance.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

See above.

Regular updates of progress to the DCS in order to address areas for development. The additional budget required to increase capacity within SENACT to be discussed with the DCS.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

8. **Contact officer: Mandy Cameron**

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Briefing papers

Self- Evaluation

10. **Service Director responsible: Jo-Anne Sanders**