

**Name of meeting: Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 16.4.18**

**Title of report: Highlight Report – SEND Area Inspection**

**Purpose of report: to outline our readiness for an inspection, and to present our assessment of areas of strength and areas for development.**

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|--|---------------------------|
| 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?   | No                        |
| Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>  | No                        |
| The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?   | No                        |
| Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name<br><br>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?<br><br>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support? | Saleem Tariq<br>3.4.18    |
| Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>   | Cllr Kendrick, Cllr Ahmed |

**Electoral wards affected: all**

**Ward councillors consulted: Cllr Kendrick, Cllr Ahmed**

**Public or private: Public**

## 1. Summary

From May 2016, and over the next five years, all Local Authority areas will be subject to an inspection under section 20 of the Children Act 2004 which is carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission of a 'local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.' This inspection will focus on:

- An evaluation of how effectively the local area identifies disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs
- An evaluation of how effectively the local area meets the needs and improves the outcomes of disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs.

In order to make their judgements, inspectors will talk to parents and carers, the children and young people themselves, officers from Health and Children's and Adults' Social Care, and schools and settings.

The framework for this inspection is included at Appendix A.

Although the inspection does not result in an OFSTED judgement, some Local Authorities (about one third of those inspected so far) have been, and will be required to produce a post inspection action plan which will then be monitored.

In October 2017, Ofsted published a report 'Local Area SEND Inspections – One Year On' (attached at Appendix B) which has been a useful point of reference in evaluating our approach for the inspection, but more importantly, to evaluate and drive improvement for children and young people's outcomes.

In Kirklees, preparation for the inspection is overseen by the SEND Strategy Group. This group has brought together representation from Education, Health, Children's and Adult Social Care, parents and carers, and Third Sector Leaders.

Complementary to the SEND Strategy Group;

- The Integrated Commissioning Group who oversees the development of SEND practice in relation to the Children and Families Act, and,
- Following the recent High Needs Review (a link to the outcome of the review is included below in section 8), where each Local Authority was required to undertake work with maintained schools, academies, free schools and others to agree how special educational needs should be met across their area, the LA held a multi-agency 'Visioning Day' in order to continue to develop a shared understanding about priorities for improving practice and capacity across the system in order to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

Through the SEND Strategy Group, the partnership has developed an understanding of our areas of strength and areas for development and these are summarised at Appendix C. It is important to acknowledge that the group is continually reviewing and revising our position with colleagues from Education, Health, Adult Social Care and Commissioning. Our evaluation has been co-produced with parents.

Areas of progress include:

- An ongoing working relationship with our Parent Forum with many examples of co-production
- Some good examples of joint commissioning
- Evidence of strong practice in our schools and settings
- Robust process and practice within services that support children and young people in specific circumstances (through the Virtual School, the YOT, and the Education Safeguarding Team)
- An increasingly robust data set to support decision-making in joint commissioning
- Successful commissioning of the Healthy Child Programme – Thrive Kirklees
- Completion of all Transfer Reviews within the statutory deadline
- A comprehensive review of our SEND offer is being undertaken within the High Needs Review with significant involvement from all relevant groups (parents, education, third sector, adult social care, health)
- Increasing involvement of Kirklees Community Hubs in addressing need through partnership working with many case studies to demonstrate this.

Areas in need of development are:

- Greater focus on the outcomes for children and young people with SEND, although post 16 this is an area of strength.
- Continued workforce development across schools and settings, and in Health to further develop practice (there are Champions groups in place that can evidence good practice)
- Greater and deeper engagement with Children's Social Care through the 10 point improvement plan to ensure greater involvement in statutory processes.
- A review of our statutory processes (within the SEND Assessment and Commissioning Team - SENDACT) to ensure that there is capacity to meet need moving forward
- Development of all practice post 16 to ensure sufficiency of choice of provision, and that agencies are working together to prepare young people for adulthood
- Development of educational sufficiency (in terms of specialist places and practice) in order to reduce reliance on out of LA placements
- Increase the presence of the Kirklees Local Offer.

In addition there are still some specific pieces of work to develop, e.g. Personal Budgets, Assistive Technology Strategy.

### **3. Next steps**

The SEND Strategy Group will continue to monitor the preparation for OFSTED and Portfolio Holders are briefed regularly. The High Needs Review has led to the development of an action plan and this work will feed into the inspection preparation.

Further, urgent work must be done in two key areas:

- Greater partnership working with Children's Social Care through the development of a Social Care Champions Group to mirror those in Health and Education, and ensuring this is well connected to transitions into adulthood.
- An increase in SENDACT's capacity to carry out the LA's statutory duties. Additional resource has been requested for this purpose.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

A continued focus on preparation for this inspection is required from colleagues in Education, Health and Social Care, along with a review of the SEND Assessment and Commissioning Team in order that they are able to meet the Council's statutory duties in relation to SEND.

Developing a strategic response to the priorities that emerged from the High Needs Review and the multi-agency 'Visioning Day' is a key focus for the Service in order to develop practice and capacity across the system in order to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

7. **Contact officer**

Mandy Cameron – Head of Service

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

Kirklees High Needs Review – Report to Kirklees Council Cabinet

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s21928/2018%2002%2020%20HNR%20redacted%20version%20of%20report.pdf>

Kirklees High Needs Review – Published Plan

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/special-education/pdf/special-provision-plan-from-high-needs-strategic-review.pdf>

9. **Service Director responsible**

Jo-Anne Sanders - Acting Service Director – Learning and Early Support

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