

REPORT TITLE: The outcome of the Kirklees Local Area Partnership Inspection of SEND and Alternative Provision undertaken in June 2025 by Ofsted and CQC and the post inspection Action Plan

Meeting:	Children’s Scrutiny Panel
Date:	17th October 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Viv Kendrick – Children’s Services Cllr Jane Rylah - Education
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No
Purpose of Report : To share the post inspection action plan developed as a response to our local area SEND inspection.	
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the outcome of the inspection. To note the post inspection action plan which will be presented to Scrutiny Panel at the meeting and consider how this will align with the existing and future scrutiny work plan. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Area Partnership have in place our co-produced ‘Big Plan’, the SEND Transformation Strategy. We subsequently published ‘Big Plan 2’ that set out actions about what we were doing to achieve the ambitions set out in that Strategy. Our post Ofsted inspection plan means we are updating our “Big Plan” to ‘Big Plan 3’. This will complement Big Plan 2 and focus on specific actions to address the 4 areas for improvement that were highlighted in our Inspection. 	
Resource Implications: Not Applicable	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford – Executive Director for Children and Families – 9 th October 2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	N/A

Electoral wards affected: ALL

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, there is no individual data included in the is report, the inspection report is available on the Ofsted website and has been published on the Kirklees SEND Local Offer website.

1. **Executive Summary**

All Local Area Partnerships are eligible for Inspection by Ofsted and CQC in relation to their arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) including Alternative Provision. There is a useful extract from the SEND inspection handbook below which concisely summarizes the purpose of inspection :-

‘Inspections evaluate how well members of a local area partnership work together to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. The focus is not on inspecting the specific individuals who work in the local area partnership.

‘Local area partnership’ refers to those in education, health and social care who are responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in a local area. A local area is the geographical area covered by a local authority. When evaluating the local area partnership, inspectors focus mainly on how effectively the local authority and integrated care board (ICB) jointly plan, evaluate and develop services for children and young people with SEND. However, they also consider the duties of other area partners, which are set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and described further in the SEND code of practice.

[Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK](#)

The Kirklees Local Area Partnership was inspected Between 16-20th June 2025 (although inspection activity began 2nd June and finished on 20th June).

The last area inspection undertaken by Ofsted and CQC was in February 2022, and at that time the Local Area Partnership received 2 areas for improvement identified in a Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

- The poor delivery of the Healthy Child Programme which does not support the identification of SEND in children at the earliest opportunity consistently.
- Weaknesses in the area’s ability across services and within settings to identify and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND who are in mainstream settings.

Since that time, we have made continuous and significant improvements in both areas, acknowledged and agreed that these had been addressed through the post inspection challenge and support meetings with the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England. This was further triangulated in this inspection.

This report provides the inspection report in full (at Appendix A), and, at the Scrutiny Panel meeting the post inspection plan, ‘Big Plan 3’, will be shared with Panel Members. Big Plan 3 will be made available on the Kirklees Local Offer after the meeting.

2. Information required to take a decision

To support our work, our Local Area Partnership produces a self-evaluation which sets out our assessment about our strengths and also where we still need to improve. This is shared, along with a range of other information to support the inspection.

What did the inspection team tell us we are doing well

They told us that:

- Our leaders are highly ambitious for children and young people with SEND.
- We work well to create things together including with our Parent and Carer Forum, Parents of Children with Additional Needs (PCAN).
- We 'knew ourselves' – our areas of strength and where we needed to improve further.
- They saw passion and dedication in Kirklees with people who work together to strive and make a difference for and with children and young people and their families.

They were very positive about many things including our Big Plan and cluster working. They said we put children at the heart of what we're doing and decision making - we listen to children and young people's voices and that means that children and young people shape local developments that affect them for example, our student's getting involved in the design of the rebuilding of their schools.

We also know there is more to do, and we are extremely ambitious for every child and family in Kirklees.

What did the inspection tell us we needed to focus on

The local area SEND inspectors raised 4 areas of improvement:

- Preparing for Adulthood (PfA);
- Waiting times for some Health services (therapeutic services, Mental Health Services and access to wheelchair services);
- Education Health and Care Plans; and
- Communication.

There are 3 outcomes that a local Area Partnership can receive following the inspection.

Inspection outcome	Subsequent meetings and inspection activities
<p>The local area partnership's SEND arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.</p>	<p>Engagement meetings</p> <p>Full inspection usually within 5 years</p>
<p>The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.</p>	<p>Engagement meetings</p> <p>Full inspection usually within 3 years</p>

<p>There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.</p>	<p>Engagement meetings</p> <p>Submission of priority action plan (area SEND)</p> <p>Monitoring inspection, usually 18 months from the date when the local area partnership receives its final full inspection report</p>
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The Kirklees Area Partnership outcome was;
 ‘The local area partnership’s arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.’

Whichever outcome an Area Partnership receives, there is a requirement to update strategic plans to address the areas for improvement. We have approached this by producing ‘Big Plan 3’.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Our SEND Big Plan aligns with our Council Plan, it explains that together we’ve strive to make sure that every child has the best possible start in life and achieve their best. We know that there are always opportunities to improve how we do that - sometimes that’s doing more, but often it’s about doing things differently.

We’re ambitious for children, young people and parents and carers in Kirklees. We want to make sure we support children and families at the earliest opportunity; our young people go to school in Kirklees with positive results; there’s a consistent and inclusive offer; and whatever our young people are interested in, we want them to excel.

3.2 Financial Implications

Not applicable

3.3 Legal Implications

Not applicable

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

3.5 Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) or Human Resources

Not applicable

4. Consultation

We have been working across our partnership since the inspection to reflect on the outcome and take feedback as we develop the post inspection plan. We have taken advice and feedback from our assigned DfE Advisor and our assigned NHS England Advisor to ensure that the plan is fit for purpose, as well as ensuring we can take opportunities to fold in activity that will help us to improve.

5. Engagement

We have worked across the partnership to develop the plan including engaging with our parents and carers and including messages we know our children and young people want us to hear. We have also work closely with NHS England and the Department for Education in developing our plan. We will provide regular public updates on progress on a quarterly basis to ensure further transparency.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

Not applicable

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

Not applicable

7. Next steps and timelines

We will publish 'Big Plan 3' on the Kirklees Local Offer. We will share quarterly updates on progress and make those available across the partnership. We will welcome the work of the Children's Scrutiny Panel activity to support the partnership to improve.

8. Contact officer

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

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

10. Appendices

The Ofsted and CQC report is attached at Appendix A.

11. Service Director responsible

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