

SEND Inspection Briefing

Jayne Ivory, Director of Children's Services

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are tasked with jointly providing an independent external evaluation of how well a local area effectively carries out and meets its duties in relation to children and young people with SEND.

The local area includes the Local Authority (LA), Blackburn with Darwen's Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England for specialist services, early year's settings, schools and further education providers.

Unlike other Ofsted inspections a SEND inspection is not graded. Inspection reports detail areas of strength and areas for improvement. Where significant weaknesses are identified a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) is required to be produced by the LA and/or the CCG. The WSOA must clearly outline how, and by when, concerns will be addressed and be submitted within 70 working days of receiving the report. Local areas with a WSOA will be re-visited by Ofsted and the CQC usually within 18 months of the WSOA being declared fit for purpose. The purpose of this revisit is solely to determine whether the local area has made sufficient progress in addressing the areas of significant weakness as detailed in the WSOA.

All inspection letters are published on the [Ofsted website](#).

To-date there have been 89 inspection reports published, of these 44% received notifications that written statements of action were required. In the North West of England 57% of those inspected have been required to produce a WSOA.

The inspection

Local areas are notified of inspection on a Monday morning and the inspection starts the following Monday and lasts for five days. Blackburn with Darwen received their notification on the 10 June 2019. Our local area inspection will start on the 17 June and conclude on the 21 June.

A webinar for families, to share their views and experiences, will be available from midday on the day of notification until 16:00 on the 18 June during the inspection week.

The inspection team will include:

- a Her Majesty's Inspector (the inspection lead) with enhanced specialism in SEND
- a CQC specialist children's services inspector
- an Ofsted inspector (often a serving practitioner in another local authority) specially recruited and trained in SEND

The inspection of the local area will cover and report on the following key aspects:

- the effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people who have SEND, including children who are looked after, young offenders, care leavers, children known to social care, children missing education, children educated out of Borough, in alternative provision, hospital or educated at home

- the effectiveness of the local area in assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people who have SEND
- the effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people who have SEND
- the effectiveness of the local area in co-producing service developments and strategic decision making with children and young people with SEND and their families

Inspection Meetings and Visits

To review progress against the implementation of the SEND reforms and outcomes for children and young people a series of meetings/visits will take place. The meetings and visits timetable will usually involve:

- Staff from adult and children's social care, health and education
- Children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND and their parents/carers
- Early years providers, including children's centres
- Schools
- Pupil Referral Units and alternative providers
- Colleges
- Respite/short-break providers
- Health providers
- Parent Carer Forum

Key lines of enquiry will be determined by the lead inspector, informed by information gathered from the local area's Annual Peer Review Self Evaluation Report, the parent/carer webinar and other sources of information including:

- Outcomes (as described in the Code of Practice) for children and young people with SEND
- Attendance and exclusion information
- Data relating to the identification of SEN at SEN support and education, health and care (EHC) plan levels
- Evaluations from service users and how these have influenced commissioning and changes to service delivery
- Information about the destinations after leaving school, including about young people not in education, employment or training
- Performance towards meeting expected timescales for statutory assessment
- Inspection reports for the local area, its services and providers
- The published local offer
- The local authority short break statement
- Schools' and nurseries' published SEN information reports
- The joint strategic needs assessment
- The joint health and well-being strategy
- SEND strategic plans devised and used by the local area
- The level of appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Health and Social Care Chamber) (Special Educational Needs and Disability), including cases resolved prior to tribunal hearing. Also, the level of appeals at the Single Route of Redress

- Complaints to Ofsted and the CQC
- Any relevant serious case reviews and their outcomes

Further Information

For more information on the SEND inspection, your role within it and team preparation for it please speak to your SEND Improvement Group representative.

Representatives are:

- Vikki Dugdale – Strategy, Policy and Performance
- Elizabeth Mannion - Children’s Social Care
- Sarah Walsh – Adult Services
- Cathy Reilly - Early Years
- Susan Hayward - SEND Services
- Carol Grimshaw – Access to Learning
- Post 16 – Helen Andrew
- Jane Partington – SENDIASS
- Christina Cramsie – Parents in Partnership
- Jayne Worden - LCFT
- Liz Johnston - Public Health
- Carole Kay – Dedicated Clinical Officer (DCO)
- Lauren Martin - Blackburn with Darwen CCG
- Debbie Mawson – ELHT
- Lidia Cattrell – Secondary Schools
- Ruth Lilliott – Primary Schools

Further information on the SEND inspection and SEND reforms can be found in the useful documents listed below:

- [Framework for the Inspection of Local Areas](#)
- [Handbook for Inspection of Local Areas](#)
- [SEND 0 -25 Years Code of Practice](#)
- [Blackburn with Darwen’s 0 – 25 SEND Strategy](#)