

**Councillor Nolan - Lead Member For Children and Families  
announcement to Cabinet****JOINT LOCAL AREA SEND INSPECTION IN MILTON KEYNES**

Between 8 and 12 October 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Milton Keynes to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection was intensive, broad in its focus and involved a wide range of partners, allowing inspectors to have good opportunity to evaluate our progress and impact. Activity included: 10 visits to schools and other educational settings, 16 focus groups with a total of 124 participants and a dedicated session for parents and young people. The support from all partners meant that the inspection ran smoothly which evidenced the strong partnership working across MK.

The inspection team has now published its report and have identified many strengths and reasons as to why all partners can be proud of what has been achieved to embed the SEND reforms with determination to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Some key messages from the report include:

- Leaders in MK are united in their ambition for children and young people with SEND to achieve the very best outcomes and are determined in their approach to securing continuing improvement. They successfully use increasingly flexible approaches to work effectively together, keeping children and their families as their central focus.
- Many parents are highly appreciative of the support their children receive across education, health and social care and report that practitioners frequently 'go the extra mile' to offer additional help.
- The strong work of the local area to prepare young people who have SEND for adulthood is effective with the clinical commissioning group (CCG) playing a central role in the successful implementation of the SEND reforms.
- The local area is working well together to reduce the number of children and young people who have SEND being excluded from school and parents and carers of children have the support of a social worker from the children with disabilities (CWD) team value the help they receive.

As these inspections have become established, there has been an increase in Local Areas being required to write statements of action, something that has not been necessary for Milton Keynes; 53% of those inspected since March 2017 have needed to produce such a plan. I would therefore like to commend those involved in this inspection and confirm how proud of all the work that I know takes place across MK in supporting our children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the difference it is making. The inspection is a real testament to the good partnership arrangements that are in place and the dedication of our practitioners who were seen as frequently going "the extra mile" for the children and families with whom they work. I

know they are passionate about what they do. I also agree with the inspector's view that we are united in our ambition to achieve more but am delighted to have the approach we take in Milton Keynes to be so resoundingly endorsed.