

SEND INSPECTION OUTCOMES

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Purpose of Report:

To present the feedback from the Joint Local Area SEND inspection in Milton Keynes and seek endorsement of the subsequent draft Action Plan.

1. Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The week long inspection framework was introduced to hold Local Areas to account to ensure the SEND reforms are implemented as expected and the change agenda has been delivered to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability.
- 1.3 The inspection was intensive, broad in its focus and involved a wide range of partners, allowing inspectors to have good opportunity to evaluate progress and impact. Activity included: 10 visits to schools and other educational settings, 16 focus groups with a total of 124 participants, dedicated session for parents and young people.
- 1.4 The attached letter (**Annex A**) outlines the findings from this inspection, with **Annex B** advising of our draft Action Plan.

Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board members:
 - Consider and endorse the findings from the SEND inspection;
 - Agree and contribute to the proposed joint action plan in response to the inspection findings.

3. Key Findings

- 3.1 As SEND 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. Of those inspected since March 2017, 53% have needed to produce such a plan and it is positive that this has not been required from our area.

3.2 We started the inspection stating to the inspection team that we knew ourselves well in Milton Keynes including our strengths and challenges and consider this was endorsed through the positive inspection feedback received.

3.3 Some of the key strengths identified by the inspection included:

- Leaders in Milton Keynes are united in their ambition for children and young people with SEND to achieve the very best outcomes. Leaders and practitioners 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. They say that practitioners frequently 'go the extra mile' to offer additional help.
- Co-production, where practitioners and families work closely to review and plan services together, is working well for many families. For example, the excellent work to include parents in the procurement process for new hospital beds, better suited to children's needs, has made a positive difference to children's experience in hospital. The parent carer forum, PACA MK, is well represented in the local area's SEND strategy group, ensuring that parents' views are considered well. Some work has also begun to encourage young people's participation..
- The local area provides a suitably comprehensive offer of support, advice and training for practitioners and for parents.
- The clinical commissioning group (CCG) plays a central role in the successful implementation of the SEND reforms.
- The strong work of the local area to prepare young people who have SEND for adulthood is effective.

3.4 However, as we are aware and the inspection reported there remain key areas of development. These include:

- Health visitors are commissioned to provide the mandatory health visitor checks; however, the local area is currently offering targeted antenatal contacts only and recognises that the current number of completed two-year checks is too low.
- Current EHC plans reflect a disproportionate emphasis on education. Health and social care contributions are not yet reliably reflected in detail.
- Nearly all the parents that inspectors spoke to during the inspection did not find the local offer useful and some did not know about it.

- Some parents say that schools do not reliably provide the necessary support, particularly when children have been diagnosed with ASD and do not have an EHC plan.
- Children and young people who have extended stays in hospital do not routinely benefit from any formal educational support to maintain their progress.
- Some children who have physical disabilities do not have access to a wheelchair at the particular times when they need one. This results from high thresholds for access to a wheelchair, from a service that does not always consider the needs of the individual well enough.
- Waiting times for CAMHS are too long. Children and young people who are referred are waiting up to 10 months to receive a service. Children and young people who require highly specialist mental health support are frequently transferred out of the local area for their care.
- Overall, the educational progress made by children and young people who have SEND is not fast enough in Milton Keynes. By the end of key stage 4, children who have SEND have made slower progress from their individual starting points than those without SEND.
- The proportion of children in the early years who have SEND who achieve a good level of development is lower than that seen nationally.
- The proportion of children who have SEND receiving fixed-term exclusions in primary schools is above national figures.

3.5 In response to this report a SEND Action Plan has been developed which is being taken forward by our multi-partner strategy group, Appendix B.

4. Conculsion

4.1 In summary this inspection report is recognised to be amongst the strongest assessment reports of our area SEND services has followed and visits are being made by other Local Authorities as it is recognised as identifying good practice established across the area from which others wish to learn, but we accept that there continue to be areas of development which we are committed to addressing.

Background Papers: Annex A – Ofsted letter
 Annex B – Action plan