

An inspector calls

We want to improve

- focusing on important areas of development

Joint planning

There are some great examples – such as the Hearing and Vision Support team who run joint clinics with NHS colleagues. But sometimes we're not always aware early about possible signs of SEND, which means early support isn't always offered.

We're working with NHS colleagues to make our priorities clear by February 2020.

Local Offer

Whilst the Local Offer is generally compliant, we know from feedback and analysis that it's not always easy to find what you need.

We've been working hard together with the Parent Carer Forum to thoroughly review the website. We've done some quick fixes and hope to relaunch in the Spring.

Schools that are far from home

We know that too many children are sent to school outside of Leicestershire. We've invested £30 million to create more than 600 specialist places so that children can get the support they need in their communities and as close to home as possible.

SEND support in schools

The quality of support can be varied, and this can lead to escalating need for support and EHCPs. We are going to improve how we use data to target improvements.

Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

EHCPs are compliant and plans highlight the strengths of children and young people. But quality information from health, social care or early help is variable and often not specific. Smart outcomes aren't always used – so we need to improve this and look at how we work with schools and health providers. We'll implement improvements by Summer 2020.

Attending annual reviews

It's really important that a young person's annual review of support is attended by professionals. This isn't consistent and sometimes leads to delays – and we need to improve this.

Oversight of education

We want to ensure the oversight of education for those at independent schools is robust. We've identified resource to monitor outcomes and take action to ensure children can achieve their outcomes.

Growing number of EHCPs

There are more requests and more plans – which is putting pressure on all partners.

This is a national issue and has prompted a national review by government.

We will ensure that we are fully engaged in this review and share the views and thoughts of children and young people and their parents and carers.

We're expecting a call to say that our SEND services will be inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

▶ This inspection covers the county council, NHS, schools, early years settings and independent providers. The inspectors will be looking at how we all work together.

Inspectors come for 5 days over two weeks and host a series of focus groups and visits. Inspectors speak to parents, carers, children and young people over the 5 days. ■



Inspections are a good time to really reflect on your strengths and areas for development.

We're proud of our strengths

Strong leadership and commitment

We want to work together to improve how we identify and assess need, provide timely support and prevent escalation. We have a three-year plan with clear aims and milestones.

A supportive Lead Member for Children and Family Services

Cllr Ivan Ould is committed to achieving the best outcomes for children and young people in Leicestershire.

Strong relationships

Over the last six months, we've built relationships across the council, NHS and Parent Carer Forum.

The Parent Carer Forum is really engaged with the SEND Partnership Board and we're working together on further improving EHCPs, the Neurodevelopment Pathway, SEN Transport policy and a significant overhaul of the Local Offer.

Children, young people, parents and carers have also been involved in the development of new school places across the county.

Investment in inclusion

Providing a graduated response to schools for children and young people with medical needs, missing education and home educating. Links with the Secondary Education Inclusion Partnership (SEIP) which has reduced permanent exclusions.

Excellent schools and attainment

- 100% of area special schools rated outstanding or good by Ofsted
- 88% of primary schools rated outstanding or good
- 78% of secondaries rated outstanding or good
- Children with an EHCP are in the top quartile for attainment

Investment in school places

We're investing £30 million in school places that support children and young people with SEND.

Investment in training and development

- 18% of schools have a trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistant
- 3,000 attended autism training last year
- 85% of schools have received input from autism services

Appropriate referrals

Partners are making appropriate referrals and safeguarding risks are dealt with quickly. Re-referral rates have fallen.

Support for disabled children and their families

Families can access short breaks, family support and occupational therapy. Rated good by Ofsted.

Preparing for adulthood

Work to prepare young people for adulthood has improved significantly. Information sharing between the Disabled Children's Service, SENA and Adult Social Care is more timely and earlier transition planning is in place.