



Northumberland  
County Council

# Local Area SEND Inspection

1st - 5th October 2018

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Northumberland  
Clinical Commissioning Group

# Inspected on

- Progress made on implementing SEND reforms since 1st Sept 2014
- Leadership, governance and joint commissioning for SEND arrangements across E, H & C 0-25
- Co-production of developments with parents / carers
- Effectiveness of early identification
- Effectiveness of assessing and meeting needs
- Effectiveness of improving outcomes

# Process

- Informed 24th Sept 2018, on site 1st - 5th October 2018
- 3 inspectors - HMI, Ofsted, CQC
- Visit coordinated through LANO (Local Area Nominated Officer), Sam Barron
- Visited 13 settings - nurseries, primary / secondary / special schools, college
- Focus groups on themes eg Designated Clinical Officer, Joint Commissioning, Outcomes, Preparation for Adulthood, Early Identification, Vulnerable Learners etc
- Focus groups held with services - SENDIASS, health services (OT & Physio, SLT, Paediatrics, CYPS & PMHW, HV & Special School / Public Health Nursing)
- Webinar, focus groups across N'land with parents / carers and children and young people

# Information requested before visit

- Joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA)
- Joint health and well-being strategy, SEND strategy
- Joint commissioning framework, action plans
- Info on health and social care services 0–25
- Data re Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) process and timescales
- Data about initial and health review assessments for children looked after who have / may have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- Pathways for referrals to health services for assessment, including CYPS, therapies

Reviewed alongside nationally published data re educational attainment, social care, public health etc

# Self Assessment Report (SER)

- Local area self evaluation of services across education, health, social care 0-25
- Acknowledged slow start from launch of reforms
- Identified strengths - accurate understanding of effectiveness, growing confidence in leadership, strong health services
- Areas for development - joint planning and commissioning, local area outcomes framework, graduated approach, preparation for adulthood

# Emerging strengths

- Accurate understanding of the local area's effectiveness
- New leadership structure and action plans provide solid ground to take improvement forward
- Determined drive to improve arrangements for identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND over the last year
- Confidence in local area leaders is strengthening and the pace of improvement is increasing
- Frontline staff in education, health and care services, and in schools, work hard and are making a valued difference to children and young people with SEND and their families

# Inspection Outcome

- Outcome - Areas of significant weaknesses identified, Local Area is required to submit a Written Statement of Action (WSOA)
- Final letter now received, published nationally 7th December 2018, locally on 6th December via N'land Local Offer

# Areas of weakness

- Weaknesses in the local area's arrangements for jointly planning, commissioning and providing the services children and young people with SEND and their families need
- Graduated response to identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND is not embedded in mainstream primary and secondary schools
- Poor outcomes achieved by children and young people with SEND and weaknesses in successfully preparing them for their adult lives



# WSOA

- Including our inspection, there have been 7 inspections in the north east, 6 have received a WSOA
- 70 days to produce Local Area Action Plan across CCG & NCC, signed off by inspection team
- Monitored by NHSE and DfE quarterly
- ‘Sign off’ after one year by DfE and NHSE
- Revisited by inspectors approx 18 months after original inspection