

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report Date: 4th April 2022

Title: Joint Local Area
SEND Inspection by Ofsted
and the Care Quality
Commission

Report from: North Tyneside Council

Report Author: Kevin Burns and Joanna Unthank

Relevant Partnership Board: SEND Delivery Board

1. Purpose:

To update the board on the outcome of the Local Area SEND inspection undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in November 2021

2. Recommendation(s):

The Board is recommended to note the findings of Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission and the recommendations for improvement of SEND provision in North Tyneside.

3. Policy Framework

This item relates to the three strategic ambitions of equal life chances for all, thriving places and communities and maintaining independence within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, "Equally Well: A healthier, fairer future for North Tyneside 2021-2025".

4. Information:

4.1 SEND Local Area Inspections

The work of the local area to provide for children and young people with SEND comes under scrutiny from Ofsted and the CQC. There has been a five-year programme of inspection that concludes in March 2022 when the expectation is that every local area will have received at least one visit from inspectors.

There are no gradings to the final judgement of this inspection. Each local area is either supported in its direction and ambition or it is required to complete a written statement of action.

The report details strengths and areas for development and establishes if a local area has made enough progress in implementing the reforms from the 2014 Children's and Families Act and is providing good enough support for children, young people, and families.

4.2 North Tyneside SEND Local Area Inspection

In November 2021, Ofsted, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of our local area SEND provision. Inspectors spoke with children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and local authority and National Health Service (NHS) officers.

Inspectors visited a range of providers and spoke to leaders, staff, and governors about how they were implementing the SEND reforms. Inspectors met with leaders of health, social care and education and looked at a range of information about the performance of the area, including the area's self-evaluation. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning. In reaching their judgements, inspectors took account of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SEND arrangements in the area.

4.3 Main Inspection Findings:

- Leaders of education, health and social care are united in their mission to improve the experience and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. Strategic decisions about the commissioning of services and provision for children and young people with SEND are owned by all partners.
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- The parent carer forum has a strong voice and feeds into strategic governance across the area. The SEND youth forum was established in 2019. It is an influential group and integrated fully into North Tyneside's youth council.
- Leaders are determined to know what is working and what needs changing. Leaders' current self-assessment is accurate. It shows that leaders are looking at detailed information and identifying priorities that chime with the issues raised by children and young people with SEND and their families.
- Leaders are not complacent. They recognise they do not always get things right and that they are on a journey of continuous improvement.
- Joint commissioning processes are well established. There is an increased demand for specialist provision and health services & leaders have agreed plans for long-term investment in places and people.
- Leaders have remodelled the child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) to improve the time it takes for children and young people with mental health needs to be seen.
- The overwhelming majority of parents and carers are happy with the educational provision their child attends.

- Parents and carers have mixed views of the services and provision open to their children. While many are full of praise for North Tyneside, a small number are unhappy with what is on offer.
- Leaders have improved the time it takes to complete statutory assessments for EHC plans & worked with practitioners to improve the standard of advice contributing to the EHC plan process. There is a system in place for quality assuring EHC plans which is leading to better written plans.
- Outcomes are generally strong. There is a positive picture for attendance, exclusions from school and the number of young people with SEND who progress to further education, employment, or training.

4.4 Areas for development

A: The effectiveness of the local area in identifying children and young people's special educational needs and/or disabilities:

- There is a mixed picture in relation to the knowledge and understanding of SEND in mainstream schools. This is more of an issue for children and young people with ASD and complex SEMH than for children and young people with learning difficulties.
- Communication with parents and carers is of variable quality. Where it works well, parents and carers receive regular and proactive communication from practitioners and local authority officers. When this does not occur, parents and carers are not well informed.

B: The effectiveness of the local area in meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities:

- The waiting time for a diagnosis of ASD is too long.
- The full impact of recruitment in CAMHS has not yet been seen in waiting times.
- Leaders are aware that there is a gap in provision for children and young people who have a diagnosis of ASD and complex SEMH needs.
- Some parents and carers remain unhappy with their child's EHC plan because of how their child's needs are described. North Tyneside is slow at publishing amended plans following annual review.
- North Tyneside's local offer is full of helpful information but is not used by all parents and carers.

C: The effectiveness of the local area in improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities:

- There are many social activities available to young people with SEND in the 16 to 25 age range. There are not as many available for younger children with SEND. The provision of some activities has been affected by Covid-19. However, it is important that social opportunities for children and young people with SEND are monitored by leaders in North Tyneside so that any gaps in provision are identified and addressed promptly.

- There is a need to improve reading outcomes for children and young people with EHC plans. Leaders in North Tyneside are working with schools on this issue, but it is too early to see evidence of impact.

4.5 Next Steps

The partnership SEND delivery board is driven by their ambition to “get it right” for every young person and their families and this continues to drive our partnership improvement journey. Inspection findings are helping to shape our improvement plan for 2022/23, which will focus on:

- Relaunch and embedding the graduated approach
- Improving the quality and regularity of communication with children, young people, and families
- Develop and implement SEND hubs
- Workforce development
- Practice Improvements

5. Decision options:

N/A

6. Reasons for recommended option:

N/A

7. Appendices:

[Full local area SEND inspection report](#)

8. Contact officers:

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9. Background information:

The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the author: -

[Full local area SEND inspection report](#)

COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

10 Finance and other resources

N/A

11 Legal

The Board has a duty under Section 195 of the Health & Social Care Act 2012 to encourage partners to work closely together and in an integrated manner for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in the area.

12 Consultation/community engagement

N/A

13 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

14 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

15 Risk management

N/A

16 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

SIGN OFF

Chair/Deputy Chair of the Board

Director of Public Health

Director of Children's and Adult Services

Director of Healthwatch North Tyneside

CCG Chief Officer

Director of Resources

Law & Governance