



# North Tyneside Local Area SEND Inspection report and feedback

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**North Tyneside Council**

**NHS**

**Northumbria Healthcare**  
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North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum cc

**NHS**

**North Tyneside**  
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# SEND Local Area Inspections

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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.

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# What did inspectors see and do in North Tyneside?

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In November 2021 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the 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.



They 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.



Inspectors 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.

# Main Inspection Findings (1)

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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.



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.

# Main Inspection Findings (2)

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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.



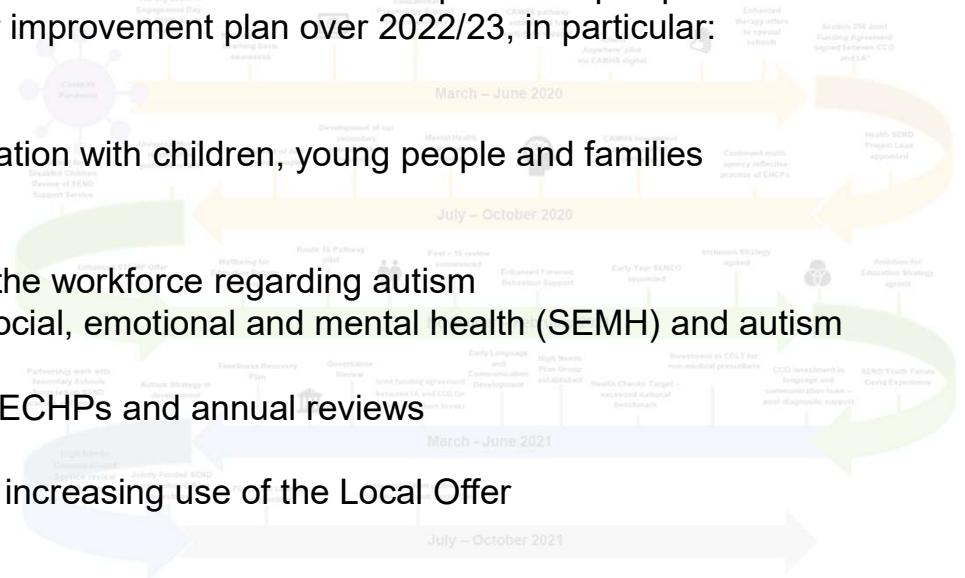
Outcomes are generally strong. There is a positive picture for attendance, exclusions from school and the number of young people with SEND who progress to further education, employment or training.

# Next Steps

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The ambition to “get it right” for every young person and their families drives our partnership improvement journey. Inspection findings are helping to shape our improvement plan over 2022/23, in particular:

- Graduated approach
- Improving the quality and regularity of communication with children, young people and families
- Responding to identified local need:
  - Improving the level of understanding within the workforce regarding autism
  - Developing a universal early help offer for social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) and autism
- Continuing to improve the quality & timeliness of ECHPs and annual reviews
- Broadening social participation opportunities and increasing use of the Local Offer



# Reaction & Regional context

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I am pleased that Ofsted and the CQC concluded that our services are making a real difference to children and their families.

I'm enormously proud of the positive change leaders and staff have achieved, working tirelessly to continue raising the bar despite the additional pressures of the pandemic.

Receiving such a strong report following on from the inspection is very positive, but it needs to sit alongside our commitment for continuous improvement and we know we still have lots to do.

Jacqui Old, Director of Children's and Adult Services, North Tyneside Council

# Reaction & Regional context

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I'm pleased that this report reflects how there are lots of people working really hard here in North Tyneside to make a difference to young people with SEND and their families.

But it also recognises that no one is complacent and that more needs to be done to ensure that all our young people can reach their potential.

Putting the voice of young people and their families at the heart of SEND provision is so important and we are looking forward to continuing to work with the council and its partners to ensure the right services are in place.

North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum Chair, Jo Gilliland



# Reaction & Regional context

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I am proud to see so many professionals working together, alongside our young people, parents and carers, to deliver the best outcomes for young people.

We know we have more to do and our commitment to young people, parents and carers is that we will continue to strive to improve the services we provide in order to support our young people to lead their best lives.

Dr Lesley Young-Murphy, Executive Director of Nursing and Chief Operating Officer, North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Chair of the Strategic SEND Board

# Reaction & Regional context

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Children and young people tell us they want to have fun, make friends, learn, work, have the opportunity to speak up and be heard and to be full participants in their community, in short a 'gloriously ordinary' life.

From our health visitors helping to give babies the best possible start – through to the teams of therapists and our schools and careers advisors preparing our young people for the world of work and independent lives – we want to be there to provide the right support at the right time every step of the way.

Making sure that every child and young person has the opportunity to thrive and reach their potential is very important to us here in North Tyneside and I am pleased that this report recognises the passion and commitment of all those involved.

But we know that we are not yet getting it right for every family and we will continue to work alongside our wonderful young people, parents, and carers as we shape our ambitious plans for the future

Cllr Peter Earley, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, North Tyneside Council

# Reaction & Regional context

Within the North East area there is one local area still awaiting inspection and two have been judged not to need a written statement of action- these are North Tyneside in 2021 and Gateshead in 2016.

In combination with our “Outstanding” judgements for Children’s Social Care and Youth Justice as well as a CQC “Outstanding” judgement for Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust, North Tyneside is leading the way to provide the very best support for our children, young people and families.

**“In North Tyneside, 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”**

