

# SEND Inspection special

## Weekly Newsletter

3 October 2018



Issue 11

# What happens during a SEND inspection?



## If you work in a school...

Part of the Local Area inspection involves visits to settings including schools.

This is not about judging individual settings but rather about getting an overview of provision across the Local Area and seeing in practice how our children are included and supported within the expectations of the [Code of Practice](#) in Somerset.

Inspectors will choose which schools to visit with a cross section of both ages and areas to give a fair representation.

Back in May 2016 both Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), started a new type of joint inspection to find out how well our support is working for children and young people with SEND and their families.

The aim is to hold local areas to account and champion the rights of children and young people.

Under the [Local area special educational needs and disabilities inspection framework](#), inspectors review how local areas meet their responsibilities to children and young people (from birth to age 25) who have special educational needs or disabilities (or both).

Children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (or both) often receive a number of different services. These could be provided by nurseries, schools or colleges and specialist therapists, as well as professionals in education, health and social care.

Under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#), the government placed new duties on the local health, social and education services that provide for these children and young people. The [Special Educational Needs Code of Practice](#) was updated to reflect these new duties.



## How does an inspection involve young people and their families?

When Inspectors visit they'll want to hear from parent carers, children and young people.

They do this by selecting and visiting preschools, nurseries, schools and colleges.

They also run a webinar to gather parent views. It's an online questionnaire which has recently been changed to a pre-recorded audio session. This will run for several days. Details on how to get to this link will be circulated when the inspection is announced.

In addition they speak to the local Parent Carer Forum for any evidence they have collected on parental experience.



## What they are checking

Inspectors are assessing how well the local area health, social and education services work together to:

- Publish a Local Offer setting out support and provision in the area.
- Provide accessible information to children and young people and their families about support and services.
- Work with families and services to make sure any special needs or disabilities are identified as early as possible.
- Assess the needs of children and young people with SEND who may need an education, health and social care plan (EHCP).
- Produce an EHCP for children and young people - all agencies should cooperate on this and involve children and their families.
- Provide the support agreed in the EHCP and regularly review it.

## Inspection fact-file

- Five days before an inspection the Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive of the CQC are notified.
- The local area will publicise details of meetings the inspection team will hold.
- Over five days inspectors will meet managers from education, health and social services and look at young people's files.
- They will talk to children, young people and parent carers and assess how well the local area is meeting its responsibilities.
- They will try to find out how children and young people with SEND are identified, how their needs are met and how they are supported on their journey to adulthood.
- An inspection outcome letter will be published on the [Ofsted website](#) and on the [CQC website](#).

**Training alert: Early Communication and Biligualism -10 October Old School -Westonzoyland: 9.30-12.30**

A workshop focusing on best practice principles to support the development of early communications skills for children with English as an additional language (EAL). [Book here](#)

