

21 September 2016

OUTCOME OF SEND INSPECTION

Report of the Director of Children's Services

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Schools Forum on the outcome of the SEND inspection.

2. Summary

- 2.1 We have received the findings from the Area SEND inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission that took place from 4 to 8 July. Letter received dated 31 August 2016 (Appendix A). The report highlights some of the great work we are doing to support families with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and praised teams in Hertfordshire for starting to make a positive difference to the outcomes for children and young people.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Forum is asked to note the content of the report.

4. Background

- 4.1 The inspectors have picked out a number of successful ways that we are improving outcomes such as our decreasing the number of young people who are NEET and the improved culture of integration in local schools, colleges and Early Years settings. The report also highlights the strong partnership working between education, health and social care professionals.
- 4.2 The inspection raised a number of areas for improvement that we need to address, and I'm pleased to report that much of this work is already underway. In addition the SEND Strategy and work streams provide a strong basis to take forward the SEND reforms. Partnership with schools

and education settings is key to improving outcomes for children and young people.

- 4.3 One of the main areas highlighted for improvement is the way we communicate with young people and their families and our responsiveness to their feedback and concerns. The report also picked up on inconsistencies in areas of activity across the county.
- 4.4 We are committed to working more closely with our families and after listening to feedback from service users and families and we are ready to launch our new 0-25 Together service in October. This service will replace the current Disabled Children's and Transitions Teams, and will make significant improvements to the way we work with young people with special needs and disabilities and their families.
- 4.5 Changes to the new service are based on feedback we have received from parents and service users about our current service. One of these changes is that there will be an additional focus on helping young people plan for adulthood earlier on in their lives to help alleviate the stress and worry for the future.
- 4.6 We know that we need to make changes to the way we provide information, advice and guidance to young people and their families and we have carried out a comprehensive review in order to identify what improvements are needed. We are also looking to improve the way we commission our services and we have a new strategy in place across education, health and care services, which set out what services and support we will provide in the future.
- 4.7 Although the results of inspection show room for improvement, I feel that we are in a strong position to implement further positive changes and Schools Forums will be engaged in the action planning related to the inspection findings over this term.

5. Contents of report

- 5.1 To see the full report please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-outcome-letters>

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Forum is asked to note Recommendation 3.1.

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Ms B Flowers, Chief Executive, NHS East and North Hertfordshire Clinical
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Mr C Ward, Interim Accountable Officer, NHS Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning
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Jenny Eccles, local area nominated officer

Dear Ms Coles

Joint local area SEND inspection in Hertfordshire

From 4 to 8 July 2016, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Hertfordshire to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The inspection was led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors from Ofsted, with team inspectors including an Ofsted Inspector and two children's services inspectors from the CQC.

Inspectors spoke with children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, parents and carers, representatives of the 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 special educational needs reforms. Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors also met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. Inspectors reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

This letter outlines the findings from the inspection, including areas of strength and areas for further improvement.

