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## Updated Briefing Note Hertfordshire Local Area SEND Inspection 4 - 8 July 2016

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### What is the purpose of this inspection?

This new form of inspection will be jointly carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). It will evaluate how effectively Local Areas are fulfilling their new duties for SEND as set out in the Children and Families Act, 2014 and the SEND 0-25 Code of Practice. All 152 Local Areas will be inspected over the next 5 years. The inspections started in May 2016 and Hertfordshire is therefore amongst the first Areas to be inspected.

### Does 'Local Area' mean the same as 'Local Authority'?

No. The Local Area is not just the local authority. It includes the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), public health, NHS England, early years settings, schools and further education providers. The outcomes of the inspection therefore reflect on all these partners.

### Who are the inspectors and how long will they be in Hertfordshire?

The inspection team in Hertfordshire will be 4 people – two Ofsted inspectors (one of whom is a trained serving SEND practitioner from another Local Area) and two Care Quality Commission inspectors. We were given 5 days notice of the inspection which will last 5 days starting on Monday 4 July.

### What will the inspection evaluate?

The inspection will focus on what changes have been made since the start of the reforms in September 2014. It will evaluate how effective the Local Area is as a whole at:

- **identifying the needs** of children and young people with SEND
- **meeting the needs** of children and young people with SEND
- **improving the outcomes** of children and young people with SEND

The inspection team will also evaluate how accurately we know our own strengths and areas for development and how, as partners we are all working together to improve.

### Will the inspection focus specifically on children and young people with Education, Health and Care plans?

No. The inspection will cover all children and young people 0-25 with SEND, including those on SEN Support and needing early help. It will also include those with SEND in special circumstances such as looked after children, care leavers, children in need, with a child protection plan, those in alternative provision, missing education, in youth custody, educated at home or out of area.



## What will happen during the inspection?

Before they arrive the inspectors will have considered a wide range of data to develop an initial picture of our performance. During the inspection week they will meet leaders and practitioners from Health, Education and Social Care along with parents and young people. They will look closely at how we are all working together, including joint commissioning and how this is making a difference.

Inspectors have identified a list of providers (early years settings, children's centres, schools and colleges) that they are going to visit during the week to gain an understanding of how the local area works with settings. During these visits they will meet leaders and other staff as well as children, young people and parents and they will look at the files of some children and young people. Inspectors are likely to have looked at information about the settings such as inspection reports and other information on the website about SEND such as the SEN Information Report. The inspectors are not inspecting the quality of the individual settings.

Inspectors will also be meeting health leaders and practitioners and looking at child records in health settings.

The views of parents, children and young people are a strong focus in the inspection and inspectors are holding an online webinar for parents and carers during the week, details of which are on the front page of the Hertfordshire's Local Offer.

## What happens after the Inspection?

We will get initial feedback at the end of the inspection week but the outcomes will be formally reported in a narrative letter that sets out the inspectors' evaluation of our strengths and key priorities for improvement. This will be published within 33 days of the inspection.

## How have we been preparing?

We have developed a self- assessment (building on how we have implemented the forms since September 2014) of our strengths, areas for improvement and next steps. This will be shared with inspectors and stakeholders.

**For further information – see the handbook and framework for the new inspection**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-framework>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-guidance-for-inspectors>

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