

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

15 January 2025

Ofsted CQC Local Area SEND & AP Inspection Report

Proposal

That the committee considers the content of the Ofsted CQC Local Area Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) inspection report, with reference to the partnership's strategy and implementation plan.

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Ofsted CQC Local Area SEND & AP Inspection Report

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The committee is asked to consider the content of the Ofsted CQC Local Area SEND and Alternative Provision inspection report, with reference to the partnership's strategy and implementation plan.

2. Background

2.1 The Ofsted and CQC inspection of the effectiveness of the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND took place between 30 September and 18 October 2025.

2.2 Ofsted and the CQC carry out joint inspections of local areas at the request of the Secretary of State for Education under section 20(1)(a) of the Children Act 2004. Inspectors assess the extent to which the local area partners are complying with relevant legal duties relating to arrangements for children and young people with SEND. Relevant legal duties may include duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.3 Inspections evaluate how well members of a local area partnership work together to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. 'Local area partnership' refers to those in education, health and care who are responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in a local area. A local area is the geographic footprint of a local authority. When evaluating the local area partnership, inspectors focus mainly on how effectively the local authority and integrated care board (ICB) jointly plan, evaluate and develop services for children and young people with SEND.

2.4 Inspections evaluate arrangements for all children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 covered by the SEND code of practice, including those who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and those who receive special educational needs (SEN) support. The scope of the inspection covers children and young people who live in the local authority area but attend education settings or receive services outside of the local authority's geographical boundaries. However, it does not cover those who live in other local areas but attend an education setting within the local authority's boundaries.

3. Main considerations

3.1 There are 3 possible full inspection outcomes, leading to different subsequent inspection activity:

Inspection outcome	Subsequent meetings and inspection activities
The local area partnership’s SEND arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.	Engagement meetings Full inspection usually within 5 years
The local area partnership’s arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.	Engagement meetings Full inspection usually within 3 years
There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.	Engagement meetings Submission of priority action plan (area SEND) Monitoring inspection usually within 18 months of the publication of the full inspection report Full reinspection usually within 3 years

3.2 Wiltshire’s inspection report was published on 6 December 2024, confirming that the **top inspection outcome was achieved**.

The inspection report states that “Children and young people with SEND are valued and prioritised in Wiltshire.” It goes on to describe the ways in which the partnership works effectively to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, along with areas identified for improvement.

The full inspection report is included as Appendix A and the partnership’s strategic plan will be updated and published in line with this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 We are extremely proud of this inspection outcome and its recognition of the many strengths within our local area partnership, where we value and prioritise our children and young people with SEND. However, we are not complacent, and we recognise that the positive statements made in this report don't reflect the experience of every family.
- 4.2 Through our SEND and AP Strategy 'Meeting Needs Together – Ambitious for All' we will deliver our ongoing commitment to ensure positive experiences and outcomes for all of Wiltshire's children and young people with SEND.

Kathryn Davis
Director – Education and Skills

Date of report: 3 January 2025

Appendices

Appendix A – Area SEND Inspection of Wiltshire Local Area Partnership