

Letter to be circulated to parents and carers by Birmingham City Council

Inspection of Birmingham local area's effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of, and improving outcomes for, children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities from 25 June to 29 June 2018.

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will carry out jointly an inspection of your local area. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, the government placed new duties on the local health, social and education services that provide for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The inspection will evaluate how effectively the local area:

- identifies the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- meets the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

The views of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and the views of their parents and carers will be gathered during visits to a number of early years settings, schools, colleges and specialist services. These views are critical to the inspection process. During the inspection, Ofsted and CQC inspectors will be keen to speak to as many children and young people and their parents and carers as possible although Inspectors will not be visiting your child's provision

The inspection will also include an online webinar to allow other Birmingham City Council parents and carers to contribute. The webinar will take place at 13:30pm on Thursday 21 June and also at 13:30pm on Friday 22 June 2018. It will be led by the lead inspector, who will ask parents and carers about their views and experiences on how effectively Birmingham City Council is fulfilling the above responsibilities. An additional webinar has also been planned for 1.30pm on Thursday 21 June.

If you would like to take part in this webinar then please follow this internet link <http://bit.ly/Birminghamlasend21June> for Thursday or this one for Friday <http://bit.ly/Birminghamlasend>.

During this inspection, the inspectors will collect information about children and young people in the area. They will be looking at local area records, speaking to area officers and leaders at educational settings, and speaking to children, young people and parents or carers. No names will be recorded, but some of the information

collected may be capable of identifying a particular child, young person or adult. Ofsted and CQC will use this information to prepare their report, and for the purposes set out in their privacy notices. No information will be published that identifies any individual in the inspection report.

More information is available in the Ofsted and CQC privacy notices which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-privacy-notices/social-care-ofsted-privacy-notice#local-area-send-inspections>

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/about-us/our-policies/privacy-statement>.

Ofsted's Data Protection Officer is the Director, Digital and Information who may be contacted at informationrequest@ofsted.gov.uk. CQC's Data Protection Officer is the Head of Governance and Legal Services who may be contacted at information.access@cqc.org.uk

While we understand that many parents and carers may have views on their experience that extend before the introduction of the reforms in September 2014, it is important that this date is used as the start for gathering evidence about the impact of the reforms. We would also like parents and carers to understand that we will not be able to follow up or comment upon individual cases.

Information on local area duties toward children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities can be found on the Department for Education's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>.

Yours sincerely

Simon Mosley
Her Majesty's Inspector

20 June 2018

Local Area inspection of the effectiveness of SEND in Birmingham City Council

The below announcement and information is for education, health and social care providers who are responsible for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities from Birmingham City Council. **This letter is for the attention of providers who have not been selected for an inspection visit as part of the LA SEND inspection of Birmingham City Council.**

When will the Ofsted and CQC LA SEND inspection of my local area take place?

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will carry out a joint inspection of your local area from 25 June to 29 June 2018.

This inspection will evaluate Birmingham City Council's effectiveness in:

- identifying the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- meeting the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

Whilst the Ofsted and CQC inspection team will not visit your institution/provision as part of the LA SEND inspection, gathering the views of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and the views of their parents and carers is an important part of our evidence.

How can local children, young people, parents and carers contribute their views during this local area inspection?

There are several ways in which children, young people, parents and carers from your provision can engage with the inspection process and contribute their views:

1. The inspection will include an online webinar to allow Birmingham City Council's parents and carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to contribute. The webinar will take place at 13:30pm on Friday 22 June 2018. It will be led by the lead inspector, who will ask parents and carers about their views and experiences on how effectively Birmingham City Council is fulfilling the above responsibilities.

Parents and carers who would like to take part in this webinar can follow this internet link to register: <http://bit.ly/Birminghamlasend>. An additional webinar has also been planned for 1.30pm on Thursday 21 June which can be accessed through <http://bit.ly/Birminghamlasend21June>

2. Details about the local area SEND inspection will be available on your local authority's website and distributed through the local area's Clinical Commissioning Group/s (CCGs). Information about how children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities can share their views about the local area's effectiveness should be included in the local offer.

Important information for parents and carers

While we understand that many parents and carers may have views on their experience that extend before the implementation of the SEN reforms in September 2014, it is important that the views that are shared with inspectors relate to experiences from this date onwards.

We would also like parents and carers to understand that we will not be able to follow up or comment upon individual cases.

Information on local area duties toward children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities can be found on the Department for Education's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>.

Can you please circulate the information contained in this letter to all of the parents and carers of children and young people who attend your provision, live in Birmingham City Council have special educational needs and/or disabilities? I have provided a template called 'Letter to Area parents' for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

Simon Mosley

Her Majesty's Inspector