

Local Area SENDAP INSPECTION GUIDE



Introduction

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) must undertake Local Area SEND and Alternative Provision Inspections to determine the effectiveness of the areas SEND and AP Partnership on positive outcomes and experiences for young people; each inspection period is 3 weeks.

Inspectors will seek the views of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, including those who are accessing Alternative Provision and their families.

Who will be involved?

They will meet professionals from across the local area; these include representatives from;

- Sheffield City Council
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- Early Years Settings
- Schools
- Further Education Providers

The Inspection Team will comprise of experts across **Education, Health, and Care**, with the number of inspectors proportionate to the size and complexity of the area.

Key Contacts

Rose Ward

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Admin

If you have any queries, please contact **SENDInspection@sheffield.gov.uk** in the first instance.

Inspection Focus

It will:

- Provide an independent, external evaluation of the effectiveness of the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND.
- Where appropriate, recommend what the local area partnership should do to improve the arrangements.
- Lead to judgements about the impact of the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND.
- Provide information to help local area partnerships improve their arrangements for children and young people with SEND, and to support improvement of the SEND system.
- Ensure that information on the effectiveness of the local area partnership's SEND arrangements is available to children and young people with SEND and their families, so they can make informed decisions about their education, health, and care.
- Include an evaluation of the local authority's commissioning and oversight arrangements for children and young people in alternative provision; our reports include information on this, to help local authorities improve their arrangements.
- Provide information for the Secretary of State for Education, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Parliament about the effectiveness of the local area partnership SEND arrangements, to enable the government to act, if necessary; this information includes whether local area partnerships are working effectively to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.

Inspection Activity

Week 1

Activity

Monday:
Initial
Notification

Inspectors request information to support the inspection ([Annex A](#)) this includes:

- Information about the local area partnership's strategy and commissioning arrangements for children and young people with SEND.
- Information about the local authority's commissioning arrangements for alternative provision
- Person-level data, which inspectors will use to select the children and young people whose experiences they will evaluate.
- Information about providers and services (including alternative education providers)

Inspectors and local leaders have set-up discussion (virtually).

These should involve the DCS, chief executive, LANO, NHS, social care and ICB representatives.

- The local area partnership distributes 3 surveys for children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and practitioners.
- Inspectors select individual children and young people and ask the local area partnership (LANO) to set up tracking meetings. (multi-agency audit) the children selected will include (not limited to):
 - children studying in **Alternative Provision**.
 - children receiving **SEN support**.
 - children whose needs span **all 4 broadest areas of need**.

The LANO will work with the frontline practitioners to bring together the MDT.

Inspectors conduct planning and pre-inspection analysis.

Week 2

Activity

Inspectors will commence their offsite analysis of uploaded information.

Inspectors work with LANO and ICB rep to agree an inspection timetable.

They will ensure those involved are notified of their involvement and how this will look/work.

Online tracking meeting will be held that will link to initial findings.

Inspectors carry out pre-inspection analysis and review the information set out in [Annex A](#).

This will identify KLOEs they wish to follow up on and further meetings needed.

Inspectors may meet with local leaders, staff, representative groups and stakeholders virtually.

Week 3

Activity

On-site evidence gathering – Discussion groups with young people, finding out about their experiences and testing out inspection findings. The same will happen with Parent / Carer groups.

Tracking meetings - These will be held with families, and with the practitioners who know and have worked with the family, this may include commissioners of services.

This will include reviewing case notes and guidance provided through case supervision.

Case sampling will also follow into **decision making**, this will pay particular attention to the **EHCNA and Plans, Fair Access** and use of the **DSR**.

The decision making will also consider the oversight of **cohorts of children, such as those out of education, educated out of area, known to youth justice and EHE / EOTAS**.

Inspection findings will be fed back to the local area partnership.