

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**OFSTED/CQC LOCAL AREA SEND INSPECTION OUTCOME LETTER**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the outcomes detailed in the North Lincolnshire Ofsted/CQC Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) inspection letter.
- 1.2 The letter details the many strengths of the local area and identifies some areas for further development. Notably, there are no significant weaknesses identified and no Written Statement of Action was issued.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Between 6 December and 10 December 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of North Lincolnshire to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the SEND reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.
- 2.2 Under the local area SEND inspection framework, inspectors look for evidence of how children and young people (from birth to age 25) with SEND are identified, how their needs are assessed and met, and how they are supported to move on to their next stage of education, the world of work and wider preparation for adulthood. Inspectors also look at the way in which local areas are meeting their duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- 2.3 During the inspection week, inspectors spoke with children and young people, parents and carers, local authority and 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.
- 2.4 Inspectors looked at a range of information about the performance of the local area, including the local area's self-evaluation. Inspectors met with leaders from the local area for health, social care and education. They reviewed performance data and evidence about the local offer and joint commissioning.

- 2.5 Ofsted reports on the outcome of the inspection in a published letter with judgements in narrative form rather than a 4-point grading scale. The letter outlines areas of strength and key priorities for improvement. Where inspectors have significant concerns in how a local area is meeting its duty to children and young people with SEND, a Written Statement of Action is issued.
- 2.6 At the time of the North Lincolnshire local area inspection, of the 11 local areas inspected since the resumption of inspections in June 2021, 10 (91%) had received a Written Statement of Action.
- 2.7 At the time of writing this report, the outcomes of 13 local areas in the Yorkshire and Humber region are known. Of these 13 local areas, 8 (62%) have received a Written Statement of Action.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To note and celebrate the excellent inspection outcome.
- 3.2 The inspection outcome is a positive assessment of the high quality of North Lincolnshire's services across the early years, education, health and social care. Inspectors praised the suite of strategies that are in place in North Lincolnshire to help young people achieve better outcomes, access opportunities and lead better lives. Inspectors recognised the strong partnership working that exists across the local area between the council, health partners, our schools, early years services, colleges and other professionals to enable early identification and continuing support for children and young people with SEND and their families. Inspectors also acknowledged the effectiveness of the support provided by all agencies at key transition points and the range of opportunities available to develop independence and life skills. Also highlighted were the quality of leadership, the strength of partnerships, a clear commitment to co-production and the dedication of the teams within North Lincolnshire which clearly helps children, parents and carers in our local communities.

Ofsted states

- Leaders in the local area demonstrate a commitment to the principles of the 2014 special educational needs code of practice. Commissioners use the SEND joint needs assessment alongside consultation with providers, parents and carers and young people to identify needs and plan support. Strong systems of governance and quality assurance are in place to check that the service meets the needs of children and young people

- Leaders in the local area take co-production seriously. Members of the parents' forum sit on a number of steering groups to advise and evaluate aspects of SEND provision. They organise annual conferences, coffee mornings and virtual support to help parents and carers. The CCG has regular meetings with the highly effective SEND information, advice and support service (SENDIASS). Leaders use feedback from parents and carers well to explore how the local area can better respond to the needs of children and families.
- In recent years, leaders have worked closely with schools to enhance provision for children and young people with SEND. Further enhanced provision is being provided in mainstream schools for pupils with SEND, including pupils with autism spectrum disorder and social, emotional and mental health (SEMH needs).
- Leaders ensure that new education health and care plans are completed in a timely manner and to an appropriate standard.
- Health visiting and school nursing offer a fully integrated 0-19 service. In some cases, health visitors keep children and young people with SEND on their caseloads for up to seven years to provide continuity of care. In addition, school nurses continue to work with young people aged over 19 years. This is helping children and young people to access a consistent service.
- The voices of children and young people with SEND in North Lincolnshire are important in influencing the services that support them. For example, young people sit on interview panels for school nursing, children's centres and community interest companies, such as Changing Lives. The views of young people who use the child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) are being used to inform the re design of the CAMHS building.
- There are areas where effective provision for children and young people with SEND is helping them to achieve better outcomes. In primary schools, children with an EHC plan are achieving good outcomes in reading, writing and mathematics. In the post 16 phase, higher proportions of young people with SEND progress to employment and training than are seen nationally.
- The vast majority of children and young people with SEND benefit from good mainstream school provision in the local area. This is complemented by highly effective special school provision in the maintained and independent sector. The use of enhanced provision in mainstream schools is increasing the local area's provision for pupils with SEND. In some cases, staff from special schools work with staff across the local area to build expertise in mainstream settings.

#### 4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Not applicable.

**5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 Not applicable.

**6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 Not applicable.

**7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Not applicable.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 To note and celebrate the excellent inspection outcome, which is a testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone working in local services across North Lincolnshire for children and young people with SEND.

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Ofsted/CQC inspection outcome letter for North Lincolnshire, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022