

SEND Local Area Re-visit FAQs

What do we know about the revisit?

A re-inspection of our SEND provision will take place on Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th May 2022. The re-visit will be led by an Ofsted HMI who will be accompanied by a CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspector

The purpose of the visits is **to determine whether the local area has made sufficient progress in addressing the areas of significant weakness identified by the previous Ofsted/CQC inspection which took place in December 2018. The areas they will be looking into are set out below in [“what will the inspectors evaluate?”](#)**

They **will also explore the area’s understanding** of the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND and their families in their area and on the local SEND system more widely.

Who are the inspectors?

Stephen McShane (HMI Lead Inspector), Tessa Valpy, CQC Inspector and on Tuesday and Wednesday by Catherine Leahy, Ofsted Inspector.

What will the inspectors evaluate?

In Devon the area of weaknesses in the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) are:

- A. To embed our strategic plans and the local area’s SEND arrangements and ensure they are widely understood by stakeholders including schools, settings, staff and parents and carers.
- B. Improve communication with key stakeholders, particularly with parents and families.
- C. Improve the timeliness and quality of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) so they consistently capture a child and young person’s needs and aspirations and become effective support in the planning and implementation of education, health, and care provision
- D. Improve the identification, assessment, diagnosis and support of those children and young people with autism spectrum disorder.

The areas the inspectors will want to consider is how we have, during the pandemic:

- understood the experience and needs of children and young people with SEND, and their families, during the pandemic
- involved children and young people with SEND and their families in co-producing decisions about how best to support them
- worked collaboratively to prioritise, adapt, and provide the services and support that children and young people with SEND and their families need.

To do this they will undertake focus group meetings around each of the four areas in our written statement of action. They will also undertake a deep dive into a selection of anonymised Education Health and Care plans and reviews.

What will we need to evidence?

The Local Area including the Parent Carer Forum will need to evidence the:

- impact of our actions in addressing the weaknesses identified in the WSOA;
- evidence to show how our local area has assured itself that the necessary progress is being made in addressing these areas of significant weakness;
- the detail of any tribunal and/or ombudsman outcomes since the initial inspection.

We are also asked to show how, during the pandemic we have:

- understood the experience and needs of children and young people with SEND, and their families;
- involved children and young people with SEND and their families in co-producing decisions about how best to support them;
- worked collaboratively to prioritise, adapt, and provide the services and support that children and young people with SEND and their families need

Inspectors will use this information to understand the challenges the local area may have faced in addressing the weaknesses in the WSOA during this difficult period.

- What we tell the inspectors as leaders will be triangulated - is what we say matched to stakeholders' lived experience?

How will children, young people, families, and carers have their say?

In accordance with the Code of Practice, parents and carers must play an essential role in the process. Inspectors will meet with 2 groups of parents and carers that are representative of the local area. **Parents and carers will also be invited to submit their views via an online survey using this link:**

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DevonCountyCouncilRe-visitLASEND/>.

The survey will open at 12 noon on Monday 16 May 2022 and close at 12 noon on Friday 20 May 2022. Please share this link with your parents.

Parents' views will inform the evaluation of the effectiveness of the local area. Inspectors will not identify individual children, young people, or parents when they present their findings to the local area.

The inspectors will also meet with young people across the range of ages.

Preparation for the visit,

The Local Area have until Thursday 12 May to provide Ofsted with the documentation they need to support the inspection.

A timetable for the visit is being drawn up and will be available during next week. Those involved in the inspection will hear directly from us.

The inspectors will then arrive on site on Monday 23rd May.

When will we find out how it went?

Initial feedback will be provided at the end of the visit and the visit report should be made available by Ofsted/CQC to the local area approximately 33 days after the visit but sometimes this takes longer.

Link to full update on our [Written Statement of Action](#)