



# One minute guide

## OfSTED and CQC framework for inspection of local area services for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

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### What is the inspection framework for local area SEND services?

From May 2016, [OfSTED](#) and the [Care Quality Commission](#) (CQC) adopted a new inspection framework for the inspection of local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The inspections focus on services delivered and commissioned in a local area for children and young people with SEND and their families by the local authority, health services, early years settings, schools and further education providers. The inspections will include both early help ([guide](#)) services and more targeted or specialist services, covering the full range of SEND needs and not just children and young people with the most complex needs and an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The inspections will also consider how well these services work in partnership to meet the needs of children and young people and their families.

Each local area will be inspected at least once during a five year period, which means that Leeds could be inspected at any point over the next five years (during term time).

### Why have these inspections been introduced?

The Children and Families Act which was introduced in September 2014 ([guide](#)) introduced new statutory duties on local areas in relation to provision for children and young people with SEND, and extended the age range that services must be provided for, from 0-19 years to 0-25 years. The Act was accompanied by the [SEND Code of Practice](#) statutory guidance. The new inspections have been introduced to evaluate the effectiveness of local areas in fulfilling their new duties.

The inspections are designed to focus on support and services provided to children, young people and families after the introduction of the Act in September 2014; however, in practice for individual cases where families who have had a lot of involvement with services over a number of years, inspectors may need to look at support and identification of need prior to 2014.

### How will the inspection be carried out?

Local areas will receive notification of the inspection five working days before it begins, and inspectors will be in Leeds for one week. Inspection teams will usually consist of three inspectors, though this may be increased depending on the size and complexity of the local area health economy ([guide](#)).

The inspection will begin with a meeting between the inspection team and senior leaders from the local authority and health partners. Individual inspectors will then attend planned meetings with a range of leaders from education, health, social care and third sector agencies to discuss and evaluate provision for SEND across the local area. They will also meet with children and young people and with their parents and carers to discuss their experiences and views of the support they have received.

## What will the inspectors do?

The inspectors will gather evidence about the effectiveness of local area arrangements and services using a range of different methods. They will meet with leaders from local agencies, as well as with children, young people, parents and carers. They will review information about the local area, both what is in the public domain (e.g. the [local offer](#), published data sets and relevant Ofsted inspection reports) and documents provided by the local area, such as self-assessments, strategy documents and action plans.

Inspectors will also access information from the case files of a sample of children and young people.

Inspectors will visit a range of educational settings including early years, primary and secondary schools and further education colleges. The purpose of these visits are: to gather the views of children and young people and their families about the way their needs are being met; to discuss with managers and staff their understanding of the effectiveness of the local area in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people; and to sample to files of children and young people to look for evidence in support of the local area's own evaluation of its effectiveness.

It is important to note that the effectiveness of the settings themselves will not be evaluated under this inspection framework; such settings will remain subject to their own inspections of teaching, learning and outcomes for children, and the SEND inspection will only be focused on the impact of the local area's effectiveness for children and young people with SEND.

Inspectors will also look at our early help services, and how our [right conversations, right people, right time approach](#) helps us to identify and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

## What does the framework include?

The inspection will cover and report on the following key aspects of local area effectiveness:

**Identifying** children and young people with SEND;

**Assessing and meeting the needs** of children and young people with SEND; and

**Improving outcomes** for children and young people with SEND.

The outcomes of the inspection will be reported in a letter to key agencies within the local area, and will be in narrative form rather than graded judgements for the three aspects. The letter will outline areas of strength and key priorities for improvement, and will be published on both the Ofsted and CQC websites.

## Key contacts and further information

Within Children's Services, planning for the Ofsted CQC SEND inspection is co-ordinated through the Complex Needs Best Practice team, who you can contact via email at [bpteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:bpteam@leeds.gov.uk).

The [inspection framework](#) and the [handbook](#) outlining how the inspections will be carried out are available from the central government [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website.