

**Report for:** Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

**Title:** Haringey Local Area SEND CQC/Ofsted Inspection outcome

**Report authorised by:** Ann Graham, Director: Children’s Services

**Lead Officer:** Jackie Difulco, Assistant Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key Decision:** Not applicable

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## 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report outlines the findings from the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Ofsted joint area inspection of Haringey’s SEND provision of Education, Health and Care for children and young people.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 This report is for information only.

## 3. Reasons for decision

3.1 Not applicable

## 4. Background Information

4.1 Within our inspection, Inspectors spoke to over two hundred staff across statutory, voluntary and community education, health, and care services, this included adult services, schools, colleges, parents, carers, and young people. They received almost five hundred responses to the survey conducted from parents, carers, professionals and children and young people, attended over fifty meetings, and focus groups and used a team around the family approach reviewing the impact and outcomes for over 100 children and young people. This enabled the inspection team to conduct a thorough review of our local arrangements to inform their findings.

4.2 Haringey achieved the highest rating, with inspectors determining that the partnership arrangements **“typically led to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The inspection report highlighted the actions that the local area had already begun to implement prior to the inspection and is included in the SEND improvement plan.** CQC/Ofsted published their report on the 3rd of April 2024.

4.3 Haringey’s local area SEND partnership was inspected in July 2021 and SEND provision was found to require improvements in several areas: -

- a) the poor quality of EHC plans and the annual review process, especially as children and young people prepare for adulthood

- b) the lack of partnership working and poor communication and co-production with parents, children, and young people. This includes communication through the local offer
- c) unacceptable waiting times for autism assessment.

4.4 The Council and NCL ICB agreed a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) overseen by the Department of Education and NHSE London.

4.5 Partners have been working on a comprehensive transformation programme deliver those areas of improvements for the past 2 years. The WSoA had a number of detailed actions which have been tracked and actioned through a range of delivery groups and monitored at the SEND Executive Board. A recent self-assessment conducted in September 2023 highlighted the improvements which were a result of significant levels of investments from both the ICB and the Council, improved stakeholder engagements and improved partnership working across the system. However, with rising demands of demand for autism assessments, the ICB still had families waiting too long for assessment to be completed.

4.6 On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, the Local Area received notice of its forthcoming Ofsted and CQC local area inspection into (SEND) for children and young people aged 0-25. This was a new Inspection framework that included looking at a number of children and tracking their experiences across the system and speaking directly to front line practitioners.

4.7 The inspection took place across three weeks and looked comprehensively at our education, health, and care offer for children with SEND. The inspection has three possible outcomes. Haringey achieved the first of these:

- The local area partnerships arrangements **typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes** for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed. A re-inspection in approximately 5 years.
- The local area partnerships arrangements **lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes** for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must jointly to make improvements. A re-inspection in approximately 3 years.
- There are **widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes** for children and young people with SEND which the local area partnership must address urgently. A re-inspection in approximately 18 months.

### Inspection Outcome

4.8 The inspection asked three core questions. These are:

- What is it like to be a child or young person with SEND in this area?
- What is the area partnership doing that is effective?
- What does the area partnership need to do better?

4.9 What is it like to be a child or young person with SEND in this area? Inspectors highlighted:

- a) Leaders in Haringey are ambitious and focused on improving the lives of children and young people with SEND. At an executive level, there is a deep understanding of how factors such as housing exacerbate the vulnerabilities of some families. Knowledgeable, culturally sensitive professionals offer direct support to families and provide advice on the navigation of SEND systems.

- b) Strategic leaders are committed to co-production (a way of working where children, families and those that provide services work together to create a decision or a service that works for them all).
- c) Haringey SEND Power is a valued partner in decision-making. Through our parent carer forum, SEND Power, and beyond, parents, carers and young people are influencing positive change within the SEND system, holding leaders to account, and working in partnership with services to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people.
- d) Leaders provide accessible support groups and online resources to children, young people, parents, and carers while they wait for mental health and neurodevelopmental assessments. Services from across the partnership provided a range of advice and services to families which consider specific, cultural, and religious needs.
- e) Leaders make good use of data from a range of sources in order to understand the needs of their community and plan for them.
- f) Processes and mechanisms in place are robust to inform decision making that is collaborative, with frontline practitioners and leaders working together in flexible and innovative ways with cultural sensitivity. Training developed across the partnership is impressive and enable practitioners to be upskilled in their delivery resulting in positive outcomes for children and young people.
- g) Health and education practitioners have developed training in response to changing needs within the local area, such as programmes for both speech and language and sensory needs delivered to nursery providers, parents, and carers.
- h) Leaders have used creative commissioning to reduce waiting times across the partnership. By creating the North Central London Autism Hub, they have increased capacity for rapid assessments. Similarly, assessment places commissioned with specialist providers prior to EHC plans being agreed ensure that children and young people get the support they need quickly. There are no waiting times for occupational therapy or physiotherapy. However, demand for psychological support and neuro-diversity support and assessment have increased and waits are still too long with a number of entry points. Sustained investment and simplified pathways are needed.
- i) The expansion of personnel and training across education, health and care means that most new plans are issued within the 20-week timeframe and advice is of better quality. For most plans and annual reviews, there is good quality advice provided with contributions from across education, health, and social care, however, this is not always evident throughout the final plan. Outcomes for children within their EHCP's are mostly relevant but not all outcomes are smart. Leaders have implemented impactful quality assurance and monitoring that involve professionals from education, health, and care.
- j) The dynamic support register has been effective in supporting children and young people, and high-level admissions have been reduced. Early work with families helps to identify and refer children and young people before the point of crisis.
- k) Multi-agency working flourishes in Haringey. The new speech, language and communication needs pathway is focused on developing knowledge and skills across the partnership, and school nurses deliver training on health interventions such as managing epilepsy and asthma education in schools.
- l) Preparing young people for their transition to adulthood is underdeveloped which results in some young people not receiving the support they need to thrive and achieve their potential. There is a robust plan in place which is showing positive impact, however this is still in its infancy and requires sustained focus. The development of a new Transitions Service alongside the Preparing for Adulthood work in place will support this area to make the improvements required.

### Areas of Improvement

4.10 CQC/Ofsted have stated that leaders across the partnership must ensure that: -

- a) Individual plans and aspirations in preparation for adulthood are specifically discussed across education, health and care from an earlier age and clearly described and updated in EHC plans
- b) Recent changes such as reducing waiting times and improving the quality of EHC plans have a positive impact on a greater proportion of children and young people with SEND.
- c) Leaders at the NHS North Central London ICB must maintain the pace and traction around timely access to health services for children and young people with SEND

4.11 The borough's SEND Improvement and Inclusion Plan has been updated to reflect the areas for improvement and has been published on our SEND Local Offer following approval at the SEND Executive Board in April. Areas for action align with Haringey SEND Strategy, Safety Valve Programme, and the NHS investment/transformation areas for 2024/25. (Refer to Appendix Two: Haringey SEND and Inclusion Plan 2024-2025)

4.12 The local area SEND partnership Haringey are proud of the significant improvements since the last inspection in 2021 and the outcome of this inspection. The report and recommendations are a fair judgement on the progress since the last inspection and reflects the work at borough and system level. We are pleased to celebrate the hard work and effectiveness of the frontline staff involved in supporting children and young people with SEND whose work is difficult and is not often celebrated.

4.13 We recognise that there are still areas for improvement both in how the needs of individual children and young people are met and at a system level.

## **5. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

5.1 This area of work is underpinned by the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022 – 2024 High Level Strategic Outcomes as follows:

### Theme 3: Children and young people

- Outcome 1: Best Start in Life – The first few years of every child's life will give them the long-term foundation to thrive
- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods - All children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities.
- Outcome 3 Successful Futures - Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future

5.2 This work contributes to Haringey's SEND Strategy 2022- 2025, which contains 5 priorities, of which Priority One identifies the need to 'Support Children at the Earliest Opportunity to access the intervention they need to achieve and thrive and priority five within Haringey Early Years Strategy 2022 - 2026: Every child should be able to have access to the high quality inclusive provision that is tailored to their needs'

## **6. Use of appendices**

6.1 Appendix One: Area SEND inspection of Haringey Local Area Partnership Report Jan 24

6.2 Appendix Two Haringey SEND and Inclusion Plan 2024-2025

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Not applicable