

Health & Wellbeing Board
13.9.23
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Director of Children and Education



ASEND Inspection – July 2023



ASEND Inspection – Outcome and Next Steps

- Following the last inspection of the Sandwell local area partnership for SEND in 2019, the Sandwell local area partnership for SEND was inspected over a period of 3 weeks by Ofsted/CQC between 19th June and 7th July 2023, evaluated against a new Ofsted/CQC inspection framework which was launched in January 2023
- The revised framework 'evaluated' the effectiveness and impact of local area partners and the extent to which children and young people with SEND, including those who attend Alternative Provision (AP) settings, were receiving consistently good experiences leading to consistently good outcomes
- The inspection team found that children and young people with SEND, including those who attend AP settings, received inconsistent experiences leading to them achieving inconsistent outcomes in Sandwell. This is commonly referred to as a 'category 2' outcome for the local area partnership. A 'category 1' outcome is available to local area partnerships which can demonstrate consistent experiences leading to consistent outcomes for children and young people with SEND, including those attending AP settings. A 'category 3' outcome is given to a local area partnership where there are endemic weaknesses found in the partnership which leads to poor experiences and poor outcomes for children and young people with SEND



ASEND Inspection - Outcome and Next Steps

- A category 2 outcomes means that the local area partnership will be submit to routine monitoring by Ofsted / CQC and supported by the DfE in making the necessary improvements and within agreed timeframes as published in the **local area inclusion plan** (action plan). Following inspection, all local areas are required to publish a local area inclusion plan by 2024. Sandwell will be publishing theirs ahead of the deadline set by the DfE
- The inspectors were highly complementary about the renewed energy and vision shared across the partnership for children and young people with SEND, and the new SEND eco-system transformation programme launched by the local area partnership in June 2023. This gave the inspectors a very clear understanding that the local area partners, through the self-evaluation, are accurate in their judgements and the actions they are taking to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND



ASEND Inspection - Outcome and Next Steps

Local Area Inclusion Plan – to be submitted within 10 days of publication of Inspection Report

- Area leaders should **strengthen multi-agency working across the partnership between education, health and social care**, so that children and young people's needs are identified and assessed in a more efficient and timely manner
- Area leaders should **develop co-production with children and young people with SEND at a strategic level**, so that children and young people play a key role in developing improvement strategies and plans
- Area leaders **should increase the number and range of short-break opportunities** to support the needs of all children and young people with SEND, including those with complex needs and post-16 young people



ASEND Inspection - Outcome and Next Steps

Local Area Partnership for Inclusion (SEND and AP)

- Sandwell local area partnership for inclusion (SEND and AP) will monitor the impact and effectiveness of the local area inclusion plan, via the 8 inclusion workstream groups of the Sandwell Inclusion Eco-System Transformation Programme. Each group reports monthly to the Sandwell Inclusion Board (Operations) and provides a half termly 'highlights report' to the Sandwell Inclusion Board (Strategic)
- Both boards are attended by senior officers from across the local area partnership, including representatives from Sandwell Parents Voices United (SPVU), our parent carer forum, and children and young people. All reports are available to the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board which has governance oversight of SEND at a system level across Sandwell
- The Sandwell local area inclusion plan will be delivered by the actions of the Sandwell Inclusion Eco-system and transformation programme via 8 workstreams which are co-led by the local area partners, schools, agencies, parents and carers, with children and young people with SEND fully engaged through a model of embedded co-production in re-setting and re-engineering the way we provide services to them
- The Sandwell Inclusion Plan will operate over 3 years, between 2023 and 2026, leading up to the next inspection which should take place during the summer of 2026, and will be monitored by Ofsted / CQC and DfE colleagues during this time period

