

Guidance about the Local Area SEND Inspection (Hampshire) - Adult Health and Care (AHC)

The Local Area SEND Inspection is undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, it is not an inspection of the SEN Service but of the whole SEND system across Hampshire, including our young people aged 16-25 with SEN Support or EHCPs who maybe accessing Adult Health and Care (AHC) or transitions services (IFT). The inspection will also take a targeted look at our Preparing for Adulthood outcomes (independent living, health, employment and community inclusion) and how we are achieving these for our young people with SEND, as they move into adulthood.

Inspectors are aiming to evaluate how well the: local authority, education settings, health and social care services, providers and voluntary and community partners work together to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND (0-25). AHC providers and settings may be sampled as part of the evidence-gathering process.

The focus is always on:

- Experiences of children, young people and families with SEND
- Impact of support
- How well partners are working together to achieve positive outcomes.

AHC settings and providers should:

- Be clear about how AHC integrates with the Local Area Partnership
- Ensure that all commissioned providers understand they are part of the SEND System and may be involved via sampling or tracked learners.
- Be able to clearly describe the commissioning strategy for SEND-related adult services, including joint commissioning arrangements in place.
- Be able to talk about how services identify the need of young people with SEND, including those with EHC plans, and how they deliver outcomes.
- Be aware of the expectations of all AHC teams, services and provisions during a Local Area SEND Inspection.
- Be able to evidence quality assurance of commissioned services, addressing gaps in provisions and monitoring performance of services.
- Be able to demonstrate person-centred outcomes-focused practice

The Hampshire Local Area Partnership draws together organisations that work with children and young people with SEND in Hampshire. This includes Education, Health, and Social Care, as well as voluntary sector organisations and those representing children, young people and families. These organisations are represented on Hampshire's Local Area Partnership Board. The Board ensures all those organisations work together to deliver high quality, joined up care, education and health services across the Local Area in order that that children and young people with SEND achieve the best possible outcomes.

Find out more about the Local Area Partnership and resources to support the Local Area SEND Inspection: [Local Area Partnership - Hampshire | Hampshire CTSH](#)

What is the Local Area SEND Inspection about?

The Local Area SEND Inspection is about impact, inspectors will focus on:

- Children and young person's lived experiences
- Timely access to support
- Quality and consistency of provision
- How well the partnership works together
- Data relating to the impacts and outcomes of work with young people with SEND.

AHC teams, providers and settings should be able to clearly explain how your work improves outcomes for young people, and how you effectively work together with education and health to achieve this.

Your Role as an Adult Health and Care Professional

This includes Hampshire County Council Adult Health and Care Teams, Learning Disabilities, Younger Adults Review Team, Mental Health Community Teams, Mental Health Priority Resolution Team, Mental Health ICT, Mental Health Safeguarding Team, Mental Health AMHP, Physical Disabilities, Independent Futures, Deaf Services, Least Restrictive Practice, Direct Payments Support Team, Client Affairs DoLs, Supported Accommodation and Day Services.

During an inspection, teams, providers and services should be prepared to:

- Be asked about the Local Area Partnership, and the work going on to strengthen multi-agency working
- Contribute to tracked learners' cases through the provision of timely and accurate information about a young person's engagement with your service
- Attend inspection meetings, in person and online, about young people that are known to you.
- Share evidence of impact of work undertaken with children and young people with SEND remotely or during a planned visit to your site.
- Showcase joint working with education and health professionals, with effective joint communication in place.

What You Must be Ready to Demonstrate

A: Access to services

Inspectors will ask:

- What are your current waiting times for assessment, care packages and specialist services, including any variations across cohorts (e.g. complexity, geography)?

- What AHC is doing to reduce delays and supporting young people to 'wait well' during these delays. How are AHC managing interim support, risk and communicating with young people during this time?
- What AHC are doing to monitor provider performance, ensure positive outcome and manage their contribution to early or interim support?

B. Transition from Children's to Adult Services

AHC services should be able to evidence:

- Timely, well-planned transitions (14–25 pathway) that include joint working with Children's services, health partners and education providers
- How AHC are supporting young people to understand their pathway into adult services and reduce gaps in provision
- Transition protocols in place and case studies showcasing positive pathways and outcomes for young people with SEND

C. Quality of Practice

Across AHC and commissioned services, inspectors will want to:

- See evidence of how the voice of young people is included, through Person-centred planning, Co-production with young people and families and strengths-based approaches
- Ensure records are accurate, current, and outcome-focused and practice aligns with Care Act principles
- See Providers demonstrate consistency of approach using evidence-based interventions

D. Multi-Agency Working

Inspectors will test how well AHC:

- Works with health (ICB and providers), education and children's services to jointly plan and review EHCP's
- Maintains clear communication and escalates concerns when they arise.

E. Impact on Outcomes

- Inspectors will ask AHC to provide evidence, such as data and case studies, of improved Preparing for Adulthood outcomes (Independent living, employment, community inclusion and good health) and what difference AHC has made in this area.

Tracked Learners (Multi-Agency Audits)

AHC professionals, both at AHC and providers, may be asked to contribute to a deep dive into individual cases, including practitioners' tracked case meetings with inspectors about individual children and young people.

Tracked learner cases are led by a named professional who will coordinate evidence, an AHC lead will request information with a very short turn around about individuals to coordinate a multi-agency review.

Be prepared to:

- Attend in-person and/or online meetings with the partnership and inspectors about your practice and individual children and young people known to you
- Share a chronology of involvement
- Contribute insights about the young person's engagement with services
- Clearly explain your role in the young person's journey, including decisions made and outcomes of work.

Engagement & Voice of Young People

During week one, survey's will be shared for professionals, parents and young people. You should:

Disseminate across your networks and encourage participation by young people and families, and by professionals working in AHC, you could consider:

- Placing information on noticeboards or public spaces in service areas
- Directly emailing to young people and families with SEND that are part of your service
- Offer support to young people and families to understand and engage, signposting them to the Local Offer for support
- Complete professional survey's honestly and share with colleagues across the partnership.

Data, Performance & Assurance

AHC teams and providers should be prepared to provide:

- Key performance data regarding wait times, service usage and outcomes for young people with SEND
- Evidence of contract monitoring, quality assurance processes and action taken to address performance.

Practical Expectations During Inspection

You must:

- Respond quickly to information requests
- Be available for meetings if invited
- Ensure records are accessible

You should:

- Speak confidently and honestly
- Be confident in redirecting questions to someone better placed to respond
- Use real examples
- Be solution-focused

Likely Questions for AHC

Inspectors will ask a range of questions, mostly focusing on the experiences of children and young people with SEND, and how well Hampshire works together to meet needs, they may also ask about:

- How do you ensure young people with EHC plans get the right adult support?
- What are your waiting times, and what is the impact and what actions are in place to address wait lists?
- How do you assure quality in commissioned services, including joint commissioned services?
- What happens if needs escalate?
- How do you ensure smooth transitions into adulthood?
- How do you know your services are improving outcomes?

Key Messages for AHC

- We are a partnership system. Health, social care and education work together with children, young people and families to improve services (the SEND Local Area Partnership) –no one service works alone
- AHC is a core partner in the SEND system and commissioned providers are part of the evidence base
- Inspection is about continuous improvement, not perfection.
- Inspectors want to know about the impact of your work on children and young people with SEND.
- Your voice, and the voice of children and young people, is critical evidence
- Every interaction contributes to the overall judgment
- Be clear, be honest, and keep the young person at the centre of every answer.