

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 June 2023

Title: Readiness for the SEND Area Inspection	
Report of the Commissioning Director Education	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director Education	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director, Children's and Adults	
Summary	
<p>Barking and Dagenham is expecting a SEND area inspection within the next 12 months. It is an inspection of the arrangements within the local area, which includes Education, Health and Social Care.</p> <p>The new Inspection Framework was first implemented in January 2023. The first inspection in London took place in March. Areas are expected to undertake a self-evaluation (SEF) of strengths and areas for improvement. Our SEF and action plan are working documents which are regularly updated and can be discussed with the Committee as requested.</p> <p>The new inspection framework will be challenging for Barking and Dagenham and for many other areas given the pressures and staff shortages across the system. The presentation attached sets out the main areas for improvement which we have identified and key actions which partners need to take. It also provides feedback on the Thematic Review of Alternative Provision (AP) led by Ofsted, which took place over three weeks in March and actions we are taking to improve readiness.</p> <p>Ofsted's letter to us following their Thematic Review visit is attached as Appendix 1.</p>	
Recommendation(s)	
<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Note the improvement priorities and inspection requirements; and(ii) Use their role to support the improvement priorities, in particular:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improving the local offer for children, young people and families with SEND; and- Improving training and employment opportunities for young people with SEND.	

Reason(s)

The improvements set out in the presentation, SEF and Action Plan are necessary not just for inspection, but because of the impact that they have on the lives of children and young people with SEND and their families.

The work programme supports the Council's aim of no one left behind. It supports the corporate priorities of supporting residents to live healthier, happier, independent lives and to prosper from good education, skills development and secure employment.

1. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Kofi Adu, Group Finance Manager

- 1.1 The Local Authority is expecting a SEND Area inspection within the next 12 months. Additional temporary staff have been recruited to provide support in preparation for the inspection. Funding provision has been made from the High Need budget to assist with any financial commitments in preparation for the inspection.

2. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Nicola Monerville, Principal Solicitor, Safeguarding

- 2.1 Ofsted and the CQC carry out joint inspections of local areas at the request of the Secretary of State for Education under section 20(1)(a) of the Children Act 2004. At their discretion, they may also carry out monitoring inspections of local areas using their power in section 20(2) of the Children Act 2004.
- 2.2 The SEND Area inspection is to ensure that local area partners are complying with relevant legal duties relating to children with SEND.

Those relevant legal duties are contained in the Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010, Children and Families Act 2014 and SEND code of Practice.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- [SEND Area Inspection Framework and handbook](#)
- [Special Educational needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) and Alternative Provision \(AP\) Improvement Plan](#)

List of appendices:

- Appendix 1: 'Readiness for SEND Area Inspection' Presentation
- Appendix 2: Ofsted Letter: Thematic Review of Alternative Provision (AP)