

29 June 2017

Dear Headteacher / head of setting,

Local Area inspection of the effectiveness of SEND in Cornwall Council

The below announcement and information is for education, health and social care providers who are responsible for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities from Cornwall Council **This letter is for the attention of providers who have not been selected for an inspection visit as part of the LA SEND inspection of Cornwall Council.**

When will the Ofsted and CQC LA SEND inspection of my local area take place?

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will carry out a joint inspection of your local area from 3 July 2017 to 7 July 2017.

This inspection will evaluate Cornwall Council's effectiveness in:

- identifying the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- meeting the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

Whilst the Ofsted and CQC inspection team will not visit your institution/provision as part of the LA SEND inspection, gathering the views of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and the views of their parents and carers is an important part of our evidence.

How can local children, young people, parents and carers contribute their views during this local area inspection?

There are several ways in which children, young people, parents and carers from your provision can engage with the inspection process and contribute their views:

1. The inspection will include an online webinar to allow Cornwall Council parents and carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to contribute. The webinar will take place at 1.30pm on Friday 30 June 2017. It will be led by the lead inspector, who will ask parents and carers about their views and experiences on how effectively Cornwall Council is fulfilling the above responsibilities.

Parents and carers who would like to take part in this webinar can follow this internet link to register: <http://bit.ly/CornwallLASEND>

2. Parents and carers can contact their local Parent Carer Forum to request details of how they can contribute to the discussions held between parent carer forum representatives and the Ofsted/CQC inspection team.

3. Details about the local area SEND inspection will be available on your local authority's website and distributed through the local area's Clinical Commissioning Group/s (CCGs). Information about how children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities can share their views about the local area's effectiveness should be included in the local offer.

Important information for parent and carers

While we understand that many parents and carers may have views on their experience that extend before the implementation of the SEN reforms in September 2014, it is important that the views that are shared with inspectors relate to experiences from this date onwards.

We would also like parents and carers to understand that we will not be able to follow up or comment upon individual cases.

Information on local area duties toward children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities can be found on the Department for Education's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>.

Can you please circulate the information contained in this letter to all of the parents and carers of children and young people who attend your provision, live in [Area name] have special educational needs and/or disabilities? I have provided a template called 'Letter to Area parents' for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Evans
Her Majesty's Inspector