

## Ofsted/CQC Area SEND Inspection Readiness

The Local Area Partnership's efforts to transition from 'inspection preparation' to 'inspection readiness', continues with unwavering dedication and contribution from our colleagues across the partnership. Collectively we have made significant progress to embed the core principles of the [Ofsted/CQC Area SEND Inspection Framework \(and Handbook\)](#) into our daily practice. As a Local Area Partnership, our focus remains, children, young people, and families at the heart of everything we do, understanding what it feels like to be a child or young person with SEND, what it actually feels like for children and young people with SEND growing up in Birmingham and also what it feels like for their families.

### Our Journey Recap

The 2018 Birmingham Area SEND Inspection resulted in 13 identified Areas of Significant Weakness (AoSW). Following a further inspection in 2021, 12 AoSW remained, leading to the appointment of John Coughlan as SEND Commissioner for Birmingham.

The Ofsted/CQC Area SEND Inspection Framework sets out 3 potential inspection outcomes:

1. The local area partnerships arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND
2. The local area partnerships arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND
3. There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns

Whilst considering what it is like to be a child or young person with SEND in the local area, the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND, what the local area partnership is doing well and what needs to be improved and whether any priority areas have been identified.

We have been working hard as a Local Area Partnership to produce, implement and embed a SEND and AP Improvement Plan that is fit for purpose and actively identifies and responds to the needs of the children, young people and families in Birmingham and our identified areas for improvement. The SEND and AP Improvement Board, chaired by John Coughlan has responsibility for overseeing and scrutinising the Local Area Partnership performance against the SEND and AP Improvement Plan.

The plan sets out our 12 priority areas with associated senior responsible officers and action leads to support operational and strategic traction:

- Early Identification
- Graduated Response
- Transitions
- Education Review
- Locality Working
- Communication

- SEND Partnership Approach
- Data Quality
- Educational Safeguarding
- Preparing for Adulthood
- Early Years
- Alternative Provision

It is important that we continue to work together to:

- Keep abreast of all SEND and AP associated improvement activity
- Ensure that we are learning from multi-agency audits, proactively reading and sharing the Multi-Agency Audit Summary and Full Outcome Reports
- Encourage professional curiosity – partnership communication, collaboration and co-production

We have several key coproduced strategies in place that detail our pledge to improving the outcomes and lived experience of children and young people across Birmingham, please take the time to read and maintain familiarity with our agreed priorities and commitments, found within our:

- [Birmingham Self Evaluation Framework Spring 2024](#)
- [Birmingham Self Evaluation Framework Spring 2024 Easy Read](#)
- [Birmingham SEND Strategy 2023 -2028](#)
- [Birmingham Inclusion Strategy 2023 - 2028](#)
- [Birmingham SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024 - 2030](#)

We also have our [Local Offer Birmingham](#), where key information, updates and signposting is held, we encourage and welcome feedback and suggestions to improve our Local Offer. We are also happy to respond to any queries you have regarding the Ofsted/CQC Area SEND Inspection Framework or the SEND and AP Improvement Plan and associated activity. Please contact Helen Ellis Director for SEND and Inclusion [helen.ellis@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:helen.ellis@birmingham.gov.uk)

We will continue to provide regular Ofsted/CQC Area SEND Inspection Readiness updates as we move closer to embedding this activity across our Business as Usual arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support.



Document dated: 8 April 2025