

	<p align="center">Brent Health and Wellbeing Board 22 January 2024</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Corporate Director of Children and Young People and Borough Director, Brent ICB</p>
	<p align="center">Lead Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools – Councillor Gwen Grahl</p>
<p align="center">SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Inspection Framework</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	n/a
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	n/a
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - SEND and Alternative Provision Inspection Brief
Background Papers:	
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Shirley Parks Director, Education, Partnerships and Strategy Shirley.parks@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. The presentation attached as Appendix 1 provides a summary of the SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Inspection Process, key themes from the Brent partnership’s self-evaluation and an aide-memoire for professionals who may be interviewed during the inspection process based on learning from previous inspections. This has been shared with professionals across the Children and Young People Department, the ICP and health partner providers as part of SEND Area Inspection preparation.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the information provided.

3.0 Detail

3.1.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities and Strategic Context

- a) Services for children and young people with SEND fall within the Borough Plan priority of ‘Best Start in Life’ which focuses on ensuring that children and young people “receive the support they need when they need it”. SEND services specifically contribute to the outcome to raise “aspirations, achievement and

attainment” through ensuring that children with SEND are given appropriate support to progress alongside their peers.

- b) The SEND Strategy 2021-25 sets out the local area partnership’s ambitions for children and young people with SEND. The Strategy was co-created with parents and carers, young people and professionals who work across the local area partnership. The associated action plan sets out in detail the ambitions of the strategy and related service improvements and is reviewed regularly by the Children’s Trust.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 The Local Area partnership was previously inspected on SEND arrangements in 2017, when a written statement of action was required because of significant areas of weakness in the local area’s practice. A subsequent 2019 inspection re-visit found that local area leaders had made sufficient progress to improve each of the serious weaknesses identified at the initial inspection. A new area SEND inspection framework was launched in January 2023. All local areas will receive a full inspection at least once during a 5-year period. However, the frequency and type of inspection activity in any individual local area will be based on previous inspection outcomes and any relevant additional information received by Ofsted and the CQC.
- 3.2.2 Appendix 1 sets out the SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Inspection process, which takes place over a 3-week period. The first 2 weeks are focused on data gathering and the third week is on-site. Inspectors will talk to parents, children and professionals across the system to triangulate their findings.
- 3.2.3 Governance of the Brent SEND local area partnership is through the Children’s Trust, chaired by the Corporate Director, Children and Young People. There is representation from the local NHS within the membership of the Children’s Trust. The Inclusion Strategic Board that reports to the Children’s Trust brings together partners to review performance and discuss service developments. There is a strong sense of collaboration across health, education and care and a commitment to work in partnership to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people, building on the progress noted in the 2019 Ofsted/CQC inspection re-visit.
- 3.2.4 In the SEND area inspection framework, a local area self-evaluation (SEF) takes a central role in demonstrating and driving ongoing quality improvement activity. The Brent SEF was completed in September 2023 and will be regularly reviewed and updated. The SEF will not only be requested ahead of a full inspection as previously, but it will also be required for new annual engagement meetings with Ofsted and CQC (scheduled in Brent in February 2024).
- 3.2.5 As set out in Appendix 1, the SEF identifies many strengths in local systems that support children and young people with SEND and their families. For example:
- engagement with families through the Brent Parent Carer Forum is strong and co-production is central to all strategic developments.
 - Clear SEND processes are in place
 - Capital development schemes will provide over 400 additional special places
 - Systems for early identification of need are well embedded and will be enhanced further through an intervention first approach which is being piloted as part of the DfE’s Delivering Better Value programme.

- SEND provision in Brent schools is strong, supported by the LA's SEN support team.
- Partnership working across inclusion support teams and health and care providers is good.
- Multi-agency decision-making panels are effective.
- Support for Preparation for Adulthood is good and includes a successful Supported Employment Forum and supported internships and capital investment will deliver a Post-16 Skills Resource Centre.
- There is effective oversight of the placement of young people who cannot settle in mainstream school in Alternative Provisions, including local Pupil Referral Units.
- Early Years partnership work is in place through the Best Start for Life programme
- There is a partnership approach across the local area to understand demand and access patterns and joint recovery planning.
- Addressing health inequalities through local service hubs and Family Wellbeing Centres.

3.2.6 Priority development areas agreed across the local area partnership for children with SEND are:

- Improving the timeliness of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and annual reviews and EHCP quality through a new outcomes focused template.
- Supporting children and young people to achieve good mental health and resilience through addressing CAMHS waiting times and implementing the 'Thrive' model and ensuring that neurodiverse children and young people are appropriately supported.
- Building whole system pathways to support children with communication and speech and language needs.
- Implementing an early intervention approach as part of the DBV programme to manage rising demand at statutory levels.
- Developing a workforce strategy across the local area partnership.
- Developing the Brent Inclusion Plan.
- Addressing health inequalities through the Brent Health Matters children's programme.
- Development of SEND navigators and SEND champions in health care providers.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 Brent's SEF was developed in consultation with partners, including health providers who provided a range of data and information that is included. The Brent Parent Carer Forum was also involved in developing the SEF and fed back their views that it is a fair and honest appraisal of the area's services for children and young people with SEND.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 There are no direct financial considerations related to the SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Inspection Framework. Ongoing service developments are aimed at driving effective use of the High Needs Block budget.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 There are no direct legal considerations related to the SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Inspection Framework.

7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 All services for children and young people with SEND are aimed at ensuring that the duties of the Equality Act and the Public Sector Equality Duty are met. Assessing and addressing health inequalities of children and young people is an identified priority.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 The SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Inspection process will not have any direct implications for the climate change or the environment. These are considered in service development initiatives.

9.0 Communication Considerations

9.1 The inspection process will involve consultation with parents and children and young people. Ofsted will provide surveys for the local authority to disseminate and a schedule for doing so has been developed as part of inspection logistics planning.

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director of Children and Young People