

SEND services – OFSTED Inspection

Reference Number: PAF/14/20

Report title: Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities – Joint Care Quality Commission and OFSTED Inspection	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 23 July 2020	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The February meeting of the Committee discussed actions being taken to address concerns raised in a joint Care Quality Commission (CQC) and OFSTED Inspection Report on SEND services in Essex (“the Inspection Report”) and asked for a further update which is attached.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider:
- (i) the attached joint update prepared by Essex County Council and the NHS (Appendices 3-5) updating on the current status on actions identified in the Written Statement of Action submitted to the CQC and OFSTED;
 - (ii) the appropriate future role for the Committee on this issue;
 - (iii) identifying how the Committee may be of assistance to agencies in the ongoing implementation of identified actions and addressing issues raised;
 - (iv) identifying an appropriate level of future oversight and challenge; and
 - (v) identifying any further appropriate process for seeking reassurance about actions being taken.

3. Background

- 3.1 Between 30 September 2019 and 4 October 2019, the CQC and OFSTED conducted a joint inspection to judge the effectiveness of the Essex area in implementing the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

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- 3.2 OFSTED and the CQC issued their Inspection Report on 17 November 2019 (attached as **Appendix A**). Representatives from both Essex County Council and the CCGs attended the Committee in February this year to discuss the issues identified and provide their broader context and an extract copy of the minutes recording that discussion are attached as **Appendix B**.
- 3.3 A further update from Essex County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) is attached (**Appendix 3**) together with a copy of the submitted Written Statement of Action to the CQC/OFSTED (**Appendix 4**) and the CQC/OFSTED Response to the Written Statement of Action (**Appendix 5**).

4. Update and Next Steps

See Appendices 3-5 for the update.

See Action Required above for possible Next Steps.

5. List of Appendices –

1. Care Quality Commission and OFSTED report – Joint local area SEND inspection in Essex dated 17 November 2019.
2. Extract Committee minute from the meeting held on 13 February 2020.
3. Further update to the Committee from Essex County Council and the Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups.
4. Essex Local Written Statement of Action to the CQC/OFSTED.
5. CQC/OFSTED Response to the Essex Local Written Statement of Action dated 6 April 2020.