

SEND services – OFSTED Inspection

Reference Number: PAF/01/21

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: 14 January 2021	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The February and July 2020 meetings of the Committee have 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”). At the July 2020 meeting it was agreed that a further update be provided in approximately six months’ time.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider:
- (i) the attached joint update prepared by Essex County Council and the NHS (**Appendix E**) updating on the actions identified in the Written Statement of Action submitted to the CQC and OFSTED;
 - (ii) identifying an appropriate role and level of future oversight and challenge as part of seeking reassurance about actions being taken;
 - (iii) identifying how the Committee may be of assistance to agencies in the ongoing implementation of identified actions and addressing issues raised.

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.
- 3.2 OFSTED and the CQC issued their Inspection Report on 17 November 2019 (attached as **Appendix A**).

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- 3.3 A copy of the submitted Written Statement of Action to the CQC/OFSTED is attached as **Appendix B**.
- 3.4 A copy of the CQC/OFSTED Response to the Written Statement of Action is attached as **Appendix C**.
- 3.5 Representatives from both Essex County Council and the CCGs attended the Committee in February and July last year to discuss the issues identified and provide their broader context. A link to the meeting papers for both those meetings is here -

[PAF 23 July 2020 agenda papers](#)

[PAF 13 February 2020 agenda papers](#)

- 3.6 An extract copy of the minutes recording the most recent Committee discussion on 23 July 2020 is attached as **Appendix D**.
- 3.7 A further update from Essex County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) (in the form of a power point presentation) is attached (**Appendix E**).

4. Update and Next Steps

Appendices A-D (as listed below) provide background. Appendix E provides the update.

See Action Required above for possible Next Steps.

5. List of Appendices –

- A. Care Quality Commission and OFSTED report – Joint local area SEND inspection in Essex dated 17 November 2019.
- B. Essex Local Written Statement of Action to the CQC/OFSTED.
- C. CQC/OFSTED response to the Essex Local Written Statement of Action dated 6 April 2020.
- D. Extract Committee minute from the meeting held on 23 July 2020.
- E. Further update to the Committee from Essex County Council and the Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups (in the form of a power point presentation).