

SEND services – OFSTED Inspection

Reference Number: PAF/04/20

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: 13 February 2020	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chairman and Vice Chairmen have requested a discussion on the 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”).

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the attached joint update prepared by Essex County Council and the NHS detailing their responses to issues raised in the Inspection Report.

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**). Essex County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are now required to jointly submit a written response to regulatory authorities addressing the issues raised in the inspection report.
- 3.3 In the meantime, representatives from both Essex County Council and the CCGs have been asked to attend the Committee today to discuss the issues identified and provide their broader context (**Appendix B**).

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4. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix B for the update.

Members may wish to consider:

- (i) the appropriate future role for the Committee on this issue;
- (ii) identifying how the Committee may be of assistance to agencies in the development of action plans and addressing issues raised;
- (iii) identifying an appropriate level of future oversight and challenge; and
- (iv) identifying any appropriate process for seeking reassurance about actions being taken.

5. List of Appendices –

- A. Care Quality Commission and OFSTED report – Joint local area SEND inspection in Essex dated 17 November 2019.
- B. Update and response from Essex County Council and the Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups to the Inspection Report.
- C. Anecdotal case studies of lived experience in relation to SEND services from Healthwatch Essex.