

ASEND Monitoring Inspection Preparations

January 2026

EVERY
child
SUFFOLK

Purpose

- Ofsted and CQC will carry out monitoring inspections in local areas that were found, at a full inspection, to have widespread and/or systemic failings and were required to produce a priority action plan (area SEND).
- Monitoring inspections will be carried out around **18 months from the date when the local area partnership received its final report** following the full inspection.
- The purpose of the monitoring inspection is to assess the extent to which the local area partnership is taking **effective action to address the areas for priority action set out in the inspection report.**
- Inspectors will **tailor** their enquiries and evidence-gathering to focus on the **areas for priority action that were identified at the full inspection.**
- If inspectors identify any new, widespread and/or systemic failings during the monitoring inspection, the monitoring inspection outcome letter will refer to these.

Inspection Outcome – November 2023

Responsible Body	Areas for Priority Action
Suffolk County Council, NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB and NHS Norfolk and Waveney area ICB	<p>The LAP should work more collaboratively and effectively to improve strategic planning. This needs to deliver systems with measurable impact that will create better experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. In particular they should urgently improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the robustness and impact of governance• the rigour of quality assurance approaches, so that these give the information leaders require to address weaknesses effectively• the frequency and quality of multi-agency working• the management of transitions and planning for adulthood for children and young people, starting in the earliest years, and across services in education, health and care, including putting steps in place to reduce NEET, so that they are better supported to lead fulfilling lives.
Suffolk County Council, NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB and NHS Norfolk and Waveney area ICB	<p>Local area partnership leaders should cooperate to take urgent action to improve the timeliness and quality of the statutory EHC plan processes, EHC plan needs assessments, and EHC plans and annual reviews, particularly using annual reviews to amend the quality of existing EHC plans where required. This should ensure that plans meaningfully capture the views and aspirations of children and young people with SEND and their families, so that they get the right support at the right time.</p>

Inspection Outcome – November 2023

Areas for Improvement

Leaders across the partnership should use performance data and information effectively to inform their evaluation, sufficiency planning and joint commissioning of SEND services.

The local area partnership should engage effectively and widely with children and young people and their families, developing effective communications systems, and acting to address parents' and carers' concerns at an early stage, to reduce dissatisfaction and reduce the need for parents and carers to have to follow formal routes

Leaders across the local area partnership should ensure that providers of services for children with social and emotional well-being, mental health and neurodiverse conditions work jointly to meet the needs of and improve outcomes in these areas for children with SEND.

Preparations so far

- Full review and RAG rating of Annex A Library of Evidence with ongoing work and meetings
- Collation of position statements from Key Lines of Enquiry
- Work has been and continues to be undertaken on the Local Area Improvement Plan (LAIP) and Self Evaluation (SEF)
- Partnership case studies have been created and continue
- ICB and local authority join up with meetings with providers
- Review of the Audit tool to be used when the inspection comes
- Quality assurance team preparations
- Fortnightly partnership inspection readiness meetings
- Staff preparations – preparation of presentations and attending team meetings
- Senior leader review of key documents to approve ahead of time
- Communication templates prepared

Testing ourselves

- Carried out a 'Mocksted' on Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 December
- Created a safe 'test and learn' environment
- Data run of Annex A
- Further review of Library of evidence
- Selected three children and audited, case tracked and prepared documentation

Next steps

- Finalising of the library of evidence and approval
- Finalising the position statements
- Approval of case studies and identified gaps
- Multi agency audit to be planned using the revised tool