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<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES POLICY, DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Non-Urgent                      Non-Executive                      Non-Key
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Outcome of the Bromley Local Area SEND Inspection</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sarah Childs, Designated Clinical Officer SEND, BCCG Debi Christie, Head of SEN, LBB
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Jared Nehra, Director of Education, LBB James Postgate, Associate Director of Integrated Commissioning, BCCG
<b>Ward:</b>	All Wards

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND Local Area inspection took place between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- 1.2 This inspection considered the effectiveness of the Bromley local area in implementing the SEND reforms and determined whether the Council or CCG would be required to submit a Written Statement of Action.
- 1.3 The outcome of this inspection was published in a letter published on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 outlining the findings including areas of strength and some areas for further development.
- 1.4 This report presents an overview of Bromley SEND Local Area Inspection and the on-going plan for improvement.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Children, Education and Families PDS Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND Inspection outcome letter.
- 2.2 Comment on the inspection findings and future improvement plans.

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
  3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
  4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
  5. Source of funding: N/A
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### Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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### Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Borough wide
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

### 3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND Local Area inspection was announced on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September and took place between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September. Bromley Council and Bromley NHS Clinical Commissioning Group welcomed the inspection, which provided a real opportunity to evidence the local area's hard work and our shared commitment to improving our services and support for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

3.2 The inspection focused on three key areas:

- How effectively does the local area **identify** children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **assess and meet the needs** of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?
- How effectively does the local area **improve outcomes** for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities?

3.3 The inspection outcome letter was finalised in November, however due to the pre-election 'Purdah' period, Ofsted was not able to publish the letter until after the general election. The inspection report (dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019) was published on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.

3.4 The letter outlines the findings from the inspection, including areas of strengths and some areas for further improvement (Appendix 1).

3.5 During the inspection week, inspectors from Ofsted and CQC held a series of meetings and focus groups, which included staff from the Council, Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group and service provider organisations. In addition, there was broad representation from partners, providers and families across the local area at the focus groups, which covered 16 areas:

- Early years
- Identification of SEND and early intervention
- Vulnerable groups with SEND
- Support for children with disabilities and transition to adulthood
- Outcomes and impact of local area improvements on raising standards
- Assessment and meeting needs
- Universal family nursing
- School nursing
- Health visiting
- SEN panel arrangements
- Joint commissioning
- Social participation
- Community nursing
- Therapies
- Multi-disciplinary diagnostic pathways in health
- Social emotional and mental health

- 3.6 Inspectors also visited a number of education and health settings during the week. The visits included meetings with leaders and governors, practitioners, parent carers and also children and young people. Inspectors also had an opportunity to review individual files for children and young people.
- 3.7 In addition to the meetings at provider settings where inspectors had the opportunity to meet with children and young people (CYP) and parent carers, there were further opportunities through two closed groups during the inspection week.
- 3.8 During these sessions, CYP and parent carers met with inspectors directly to provide their personal views. This was an opportunity for inspectors to hear first-hand of individual stories, which afforded inspectors a greater understanding about lived experiences.
- 3.9 Through the self-evaluation of the local area, the Council, CCG and other partners were able to provide inspectors with areas of strength including evidenced examples of good practice and sustained improvement. Examples of good practice include:
- Leaders know the local area's demography and geography. They are aware of the diverse needs of their communities. They deploy resources to those areas with the greatest need.
  - Elected members of Bromley Council support leaders in prioritising improvements for children and young people with SEND. For example, the council has invested in high needs funding and created new jobs for officers and healthcare professionals to strengthen operational delivery.
  - Jointly funded services enable children and young people with very complex needs to access good quality provision without delay.
- 3.10 The self-evaluation also set out 18 key areas for improvement (Appendix 2), under which we will maintain the shared focus to achieve our ambitions for children and young people who have SEND.
- 3.11 The self-evaluation was judged secure by Inspectors, indicating that the Council, CCG and other partners know the local area well and have an accurate view of the performance and quality of our services. It was reassuring that Ofsted and the CQC felt that we know ourselves well, with the recommendations identified aligning closely to the 18 areas for improvement identified by the local area, with no unexpected surprises.
- 3.12 The local area has been found to have made progress in a number of areas and was not required to submit a Written Statement of Action. Nevertheless, we recognise that further work needs to be done to achieve the excellence in services we aspire to. This was evident in some of the feedback and discussions the inspectors had with parent carers, in that improvements in the lived experience for families have not been felt consistently by all families across the local area.

## **IMPROVEMENT PLAN GOING FORWARD**

- 3.13 The areas for improvement are fully acknowledged both within the self-evaluation but also in the Strategic Vision and Priorities 2019-22 (Appendix 3) and its associated action plan, which align to the findings of the inspection report. Oversight of the action plan is undertaken by the SEND Governance Board, with scrutiny and challenge on the five key priorities at each meeting.
- 3.14 Since the inspection the SEND Leadership has been further strengthened with health provider organisations now represented on the SEND Governance Board.
- 3.15 Over the coming weeks, Bromley CCG and the Council will be taking the opportunity to carry out a range of engagement sessions with partners and providers, including two SEND Matters Live events, specifically for parent carers.
- 3.16 Bromley CCG and Bromley Council welcomed the inspection findings and the opportunity to evidence the hard work that we have collectively been putting into improving our services for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- 3.17 Regardless of the inspection, delivery of the SEND Reform Programme in Bromley continues at pace. The inspection provided the local area with validation of where we are in our journey together and we fully accept the recommendations within the report.

## **4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

- 4.1 The SEND reforms aims to help children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities to be aspirational about their future and achieve best possible life outcomes.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- Transforming Bromley 2019-2023
- Portfolio Plan for the Education, Children and Families 2019-2020
- Education, Children and Families department Business Plan 2018-2022
- Education, Children and Families Business Plan 2018-2022
- Bromley Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2021
- SEND Vision and Priorities 2019-2022

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## 8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Local areas are required to implement the SEND reforms outlined in the Children and Families Act (2014). The Code of Practice (2015) provides statutory guidance for organisations working to support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities.
- 9.2 The SEND inspections provide an independent, external evaluation of how well a local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to SEND.
- 9.3 Should progress towards implementation of the reforms be deemed insufficient, a local area will need to produce a Written Statement of Action and will receive continued monitoring with an inspection re-visit required. Bromley has not been issued with a Written Statement of Action and is therefore not subject to a re-visit.

## 9. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

N/A

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Financial Implications Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix 1 – Ofsted and CQC Inspection Report</li><li>• Appendix 2 – Focus for improvement summary</li><li>• Appendix 3 – Strategic Vision and Priorities 2019-22 summary</li></ul>