

Southend Local Area Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), what the inspectors said and what we are going to do about it.

In October 2018 the “Local Area” providing services to children, young people and their families who have SEND in Southend was inspected as part of a national programme. As a result, the inspectors required the Area (Southend Local Authority, Southend Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health and schools) to produce a Written Statement of Action because of the significant areas of weakness it identified, as follows:

- A** The leadership in the Area had not acted quickly enough to jointly commission services to improve outcomes for children and young people;
- B** The Local Offer, the services that children, young people and their families are entitled to, is not easily accessible, nor publicised enough. Importantly Leaders did not pay sufficient attention to what children, young people and their families say about what they need;
- C** Plans (EHCPs) that support children and young people who have SEND are not good quality, do not include all the information that would help them, and are not checked regularly sufficiently;
- D** Leaders have not worked closely enough together to ensure that schools and other places where children and young people learn are of good quality. This was especially important where children and young people are educated in places other than at a Southend school.

As a result, Leaders have worked together, and with schools and parents, to let inspectors know what it is they will do to improve the weaknesses identified.

- Work more closely with children, young people and their families who also have SEND
- Ensure that we identify how the right services are provided at the right time to meet your needs
- Make good use of our joint resources
- Make sure that your overall needs are in the forefront of the support provided
- Tailor more and more what you receive to meet your individual needs

- Involve you far more in how we promote what is available
- Make sure that however you choose, you can easily find out what is available (the Local Offer), usually online
- Make sure more people know about the Local Offer
- Make sure that the Local Offer meets your needs and actually helps make a difference
- Listen more and act more on what you say
- Make sure the Local Offer is up to date

- From the start, make applying for plan easily understood, simple to achieve and timely
- Make sure, if you have one, your plan is well written and contains everything it needs to
- Listen more to you in writing the plan
- Make sure anyone supporting you knows what they need to know about you to help you best

- Make sure that the information we have is current and complete
- Make sure we share that information with you at all times
- Ensure that your school is fully involved
- Check regularly that you are receiving the best education you can that meets your needs
- Where we can, act far earlier to support your child's needs
- Always ensure as far as we can that we can be assured of your child's welfare and safety

What is more, we will both check regularly how we are achieving these actions, and let you know how we are doing through the Local Offer.

As leaders, we are determined to make rapid improvements in how we support children, young people and their families who have SEND. This includes all children and young people of all ages, pre-school, school age and when they leave school, in some cases up to the age of 25.

We expect to have made the difference before the time the inspectors return, sometime in late 2020.

A B C

