

Report Template

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 21 June 2017
Subject:	SEND Inspection - Statement of Action		
Report of:	Head of Schools and Families	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:			
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The Head of Schools and Families was requested to submit a report to this Committee on the SEND Inspection final Statement of Action which has been submitted to Ofsted.

Recommendation(s):

(1) That the Committee notes the report and the response from Ofsted.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The Head of Schools and Families was requested to submit a report to this Committee on SEND Inspection Statement of Action.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs N/A

(B) Capital Costs N/A

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications: Academies are independent of local authority control.
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services:
Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted and has no comments to make on this report as there are no financial consequences as a result of it. (FD 4687/17)

The Head of Regulation and Compliance has been consulted and has no comment on the report (LD 3971/17)

Are there any other options available for consideration? N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision: Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Background Papers: None

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1. Introduction/Background

1. 1.1 Introduction

1.1 At a special meeting on 4 April 2017 Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding) considered the draft statement of action in response to the Local Area SEND Inspection carried out in November 2016. Members requested a copy of the final statement of action to be presented to this Committee for information.

2. SEND Inspection

2.1 The SEND inspection is an inspection of a local areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

2.2 The inspection is undertaken jointly by Ofsted and the CQC and inspectors are required to examine the local areas' effectiveness in:

- The identification of CYP with SEND
- Meeting the needs of CYP with SEND
- Improving outcomes for CYP with SEND

2.3 The inspection lasts 5 days and includes education services, schools, health services and social care services in respect of this group of young people. There is no 'judgement' at the end of the inspection but the local area receives a letter which details a range of 'Strengths' and 'Areas for development'.

2.4 In Sefton's case we were also required to submit a written 'statement of action' on 5 areas of concern by 18th April 2017. The 5 areas of concern are:

Action 1 - the poor progress made from starting points by pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an EHCP at key stages 2 and 4.

Action 2 - the poor operational oversight of the DCO across health services in supporting children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

Action 3 - the lack of awareness and understanding of health professionals in terms of their responsibilities and contribution to EHCPs.

Action 4 - the weakness of co-production with parents, and more generally in communications with parents.

Action 5 - the weakness of joint commissioning in ensuring that there are adequate services to meet local demand.

2.5 The statement of action submitted to Ofsted jointly by the CCGs and the local authority, addresses the five areas identified above and is attached to this report for information.



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Date: 18th April 2017
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Contact Name:
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Sefton Local Area: SEND Inspection written statement of action

Please find attached the written statement of action which the local area has been asked to submit following the local area SEND inspection in Sefton.

The statement is submitted jointly on behalf of the local area by the CCGs and Sefton Council. The statement has been produced by a working group which included parents, schools, Health, CCGs, Public Health, the voluntary sector and social care, and quality assured by the SEN Strategic Group and the CCG Quality Committee. The statement has also been scrutinised by the local authority's Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and their comments have been incorporated into the final version.

Following an initial meeting with DfE and NHS England a senior Officer from the CCG and I met with Hazel Richards from NHS England with dial in from Stuart Miller and Andre Imich from the DfE for a positive but challenging meeting and their supportive comments and thoughts have been taken on board in developing the statement. Drafts of the statement have been shared with regional links in DfE and NHS England and their comments have been included in the final version.

I understand that following the receipt of the statement, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will review the content and provide a response to you within 10 working days, however, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of the attached statement of action.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dwayne Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dwayne Johnson
Director Social Care and Health