

Ofsted & CQC Area SEND Inspection news

Key Changes Resulting from the Review

1. Refinements to the Inspection Framework

- The framework has been updated to better reflect current challenges and best practices.
- Adjustments were made in response to feedback from children, families, practitioners, and leaders.

2. Stronger Focus on Strategic Governance

- Emphasis on improving leadership and oversight across education, health, and social care.
- Local areas with systemic failings must now submit **priority action plans**.

3. Improved Data Sharing and Coordination

- Local partnerships are expected to enhance how they share and use data to plan services.
- Better integration of systems across agencies is encouraged to avoid fragmented support.

4. Enhanced Joint Commissioning

- Local areas are urged to use data and family feedback to jointly commission services that meet actual needs.
- Stronger accountability for ensuring commissioned services are effective and timely.

5. Greater Emphasis on Co-production

- Families and young people must be involved earlier and more meaningfully in service design and decision-making.
- Co-production is now a key indicator of effective partnership working.

6. Focus on EHC Plan Quality and Timeliness

- Local areas must ensure EHC plans are not only timely but also high quality, reflecting the child's voice and needs.
- Monitoring and quality assurance processes are being promoted.

7. Addressing Long Waiting Times

- Partnerships are expected to provide interim support while children wait for services.

- Examples of good practice (e.g., family hubs, alternative therapies) are being shared.

8. Early Help and Identification

- More investment in early intervention and workforce training is encouraged.
- Local areas are expected to improve developmental checks and early assessments.

9. Better Transition Planning

- EHC plans must include clear, actionable transition plans.
- Local areas are encouraged to provide better careers advice and support for independence.

10. Ongoing Thematic Reviews

- Ofsted and CQC will continue thematic visits (e.g., children not in school in 2025) to explore specific issues in depth and share learning nationally.

[Read the full report](#)
