

5 December 2016

**Inspection of Suffolk County Council local area's effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of, and improving outcomes for, children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities from 12 December to 16 December 2016**

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will carry out jointly an inspection of your local area. The inspection will evaluate how effectively the local area:

- identifies the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- meets the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

The views of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and the views of their parents and carers will be gathered during visits to a number of early years settings, schools, colleges and specialist services. These views are critical to the inspection process. During the inspection, Ofsted and CQC inspectors will be keen to speak to as many children and young people and their parents and carers as possible. Inspectors will select a range of settings to visit and will work with the local authority and its partners to inform children and young people who attend those settings, and their parents and carers, in advance so that they are able to contribute their views. The inspection will also include an online webinar to allow other parents and carer to contribute. The webinar will take place at 6.30 – 8.00pm on Wednesday 14 December. It will be led by Heather Yaxley, Her Majesty's Inspector, who will ask parents and carers about their views and experiences on how effectively Suffolk County Council is fulfilling the above responsibilities.

While we understand that many parents and carers may have views on their experience that extend before the implementation of the reforms in September 2014, it is important that this date is used as the start for gathering evidence about the impact of the reforms as part of our new inspections. We would also like parents and carers to understand that we will not be able to follow up or comment upon individual cases.

If you would like to take part in this webinar then please follow this internet link <http://bit.ly/SuffolkLASEND>

Information on local area duties toward children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities can be found on the Department for Education's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>.

Yours sincerely

Heather Yaxley  
Her Majesty's Inspector