

**FOA Essex Headteachers**

Date: 9 May 2016

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Ofsted CQC Local Area SEND Inspections - Update**

The Framework for the Ofsted CQC SEND Local Area inspection has now been published. We understand that Ofsted are anticipating carrying out at least 8 inspections during the summer term. As part of our preparation for this inspection we have begun to develop a self-evaluation framework and to put in place an action plan to ensure that the logistics of any inspection are communicated and shared across the services and with our different stakeholders.

As part of the Local Area SEND Review inspectors will visit a range of early years, school, further education and health providers and specialist services within the local area. They are likely to contact other providers and services within the local area. The Local Area is likely to propose schools and settings based on positive recommendations; however the inspection teams are at liberty to make their own selection based on key lines of enquiry.

The Local Area will receive notice of the review on a Monday morning and the review will commence on the following Monday, giving five days' notice to those likely to be part of the process. When the local area receives notice of inspection it will contact the schools and settings it is proposing to inspectors and discuss what is likely to be required in further detail.

It is important to point out that the visits are **NOT** Ofsted inspections of schools and therefore activities such as observing lessons, observing service delivery (therapists, specialist interventions etc.) and learning walks will not take place. School and settings are inspected under the Common Inspection Framework and will not be judged as part of this process.

Review activities are likely to be:

- gathering the views of children and young people, and their parents and carers, about how effectively their needs have been identified and met;
- discussions with leaders, managers and staff their contribution to, and understanding of, the local area's evaluation of its effectiveness in identifying needs, and in meeting these needs and improving outcomes for children and young people;
- sampling children and young people's files and other relevant sources of information to confirm or otherwise the local area's own evaluation of its effectiveness in identifying and meeting needs and improving outcomes.

We will keep all lines of communication with you open as the preparation work further develops through the ASHE, EPHA and ESSET networks.

I would like to thank everyone in advance for your assistance and support

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Clare Kershaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Kershaw

**Director of Commissioning: Education and Lifelong Learning**