

14 May 2015

Letter to be circulated to parents and carers by Kent County Council

Pilot inspection of Kent's effectiveness in meeting its responsibilities for disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are developing a new inspection framework that will be used to evaluate how effectively local areas are implementing the reforms contained in the Children and Families Act 2014. These reforms were introduced in September 2014 and place responsibilities on local areas:

- to ensure disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs are identified effectively.
- to ensure that these children and young people have their needs met effectively and their outcomes improve.

Kent has agreed that the inspection development team can carry out a pilot inspection of the area's effectiveness towards meeting the above responsibilities. This work will add substantially to the developing inspection framework. There will not be a published report from this pilot inspection.

The views of disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs, and parents and carers will be gathered during visits to a number of early years settings, schools and colleges. The pilot inspection will also include an online webinar to allow other Kent parents and carer to contribute. The webinar will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20 May 2015. It will be led by Mary Rayner, Her Majesty's Inspector, National lead for disability and special educational needs, who will ask parents and carers their views on how effectively Kent is fulfilling the above responsibilities since the implementation of the reforms.

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 the new inspection. We would also like parents 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 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Webinar20th>

Further information on the disability and special educational needs reform can be found on the Department for Education's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Yours sincerely

Charlie Henry
Her Majesty's Inspector
National lead for disability and special educational needs