

Formal consultation: a new approach to area SEND inspections

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation (including charities and interest groups)?

Yes (please provide name of organisation and whether or not you are happy for us to publish your response):

British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD)

I am:

A representative of a professional association or union

To what extent do you agree or disagree that our inspections should focus more on the impact that the local area partnership is having on the lives of children and young people with SEND?

Agree

Comments:

BATOD agrees the focus should be on the lives of children and young people with SEND. BATOD is pleased that the inspections will still take into account how statutory responsibilities towards children with SEND are being met. Our Association would like to see a more explicit focus throughout the inspection framework on Equality Act 2010 responsibilities towards children and young people (CYP) who are deaf and/or have disabilities, as well as those set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 towards CYP with special educational needs.

Children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way.

Strongly agree

Children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support.

Strongly agree

Children and young people receive the right help at the right time.

Strongly agree

Children and young people are well prepared for their next steps, and achieve strong outcomes.

Strongly agree

Children and young people are valued, visible and included in their communities.

Strongly agree

To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposed approach to introducing 3 distinct inspection outcomes?

Strongly agree

Do you agree or disagree that inspection reports should include clear recommendations on which weaknesses or systemic issues the local area partnership needs to address?

Strongly agree

To what extent do you agree or disagree that, following inspection, each local area partnership should update and publish its strategic plan for SEND?

Strongly agree

To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to gather more evidence directly from children and young people with SEND and their families?

Strongly agree

Comments:

BATOD agrees that tracking more children will provide a broader perspective. CYP selected must represent each of the four main areas of SEND. Appropriate communication support, including BSL must be provided to facilitate true engagement of CYP.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that area SEND inspections should include a focus on how local authorities use, commission and oversee alternative provision?

Agree

Comments:

BATOD feels local authorities use and commissioning of alternative provision must take into consideration broader needs of CYP placed in such provision, including those who also have low incidence needs such as deafness.

If deaf CYP must be placed in such provisions, the acoustics of alternative provision buildings should meet their needs. Similarly, the staff within such provisions must have the skills to meet the teaching strategies needs of deaf learners.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed approach to monitoring inspections?

Agree

Do you agree or disagree that we should invite each local area partnership to engagement meetings between inspections to discuss the local SEND arrangements?

Strongly agree

Are there other ways in which you think we can make our surveys of children and young people with SEND more accessible?

All surveys should be available in British Sign Language (BSL) for deaf CYP who use BSL as their first language. Surveys should be differentiated to match the age ranges of the target CYP population.

Do you have any additional comments about our proposed new framework for the inspection of local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND?

BATOD supports the continuation of these inspections. It is important that LAs continue to be accountable for their provision to CYP with SEND.

BATODs view is also that the framework could be further strengthened in the areas of:

- Low incidence need
- Resource provision – specialist resource bases attached to mainstream schools.

Members strongly feel that inspectors should have good knowledge of deaf education, and in particular inspections of areas with deaf resource bases/deaf schools must have at least one Qualified Teacher of the Deaf in the inspection team.

Please provide any representations/evidence of the impact of our proposals for the purposes of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010).

BATOD believes that all surveys should reflect the communication requirements of the CYP and their families. Deaf children should be given the opportunity to provide their views independently. Therefore, all surveys should be available in BSL.

As for school inspections, it is equally essential that where inspectors are talking to CYP and their families appropriate communication support, including BSL is available when required

We are committed to making sure that our consultations are accessible. To enable us to improve our consultation processes and reach would you be willing to tell us a bit about yourself and how you found this survey?

Yes

How did you hear about this consultation?

Another organisation (please specify):
National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)

I found the consultation information clear and easy to understand.

Agree

I found the consultation easy to find.

Agree

I had enough information about the consultation topic.

Agree

I would take part in a future Ofsted or CQC consultation.

Agree

Is there anything you would like us to improve on or do differently for future consultations?

Ensure they are accessible to all stakeholders.
All surveys should be available in British Sign Language (BSL) for deaf stakeholders who use BSL as their first language.

Gender
Prefer not to say

Age
Prefer not to say

How would you describe your national group?
Prefer not to say

How would you describe your ethnic group?
Prefer not to say

Sexual orientation
Prefer not to say

Religion/belief
Prefer not to say

Disability
Do you consider yourself to have a disability?
Prefer not to say