South East 19 SEND Regional Network:

Inspection Preparation: Self Evaluation Framework Peer Review Guidance



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**Introduction**

Peer review and challenge is a proven tool for improvement. The South East Sector-Led Improvement Programme (SESLIP) already offers a number of Peer Review frameworks to support key statutory services for children. In 2014 an independent evaluation for the Local Government Association endorsed the value of peer challenge.

This new framework supports delivery of SEND responsibilities and, in particular, assists readiness for the new Ofsted and CQC joint inspection of Local Area's services for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The process is normally commissioned by a local area involves a small team of peers spending time on-site to provide challenge and share learning. The process involves engaging with a wide range of people connected with SEND services and the findings are delivered immediately.

In the South East, our approach seeks to provide challenge to not only the local authority but also key strategic partners of CCGs, Health and Education providers and parent and carer forums. The purpose of this peer challenge is to identify areas of progress against the reforms within the Children and Families Act 2014 and its links with the Care Act 2014, and Transforming Care. Ultimately, our peer challenge should result in better outcomes for children and young people experiencing SEND.

**Our aims:**

* An improvement process for local areas to reflect on the implementation of the Children & Families Act 2014 and improvements in SEND
* To develop preparedness for OfSTED/CQC joint SEND inspection

**Our model**

To provide a robust peer challenge process, local areas are invited to:

* Identify four key lines of enquiry - one key strength and three key areas for development
* At least four peers review the evidence and challenge progress. They comprise:
	+ One or more Parent & Carer Forum representatives
	+ One LA education officer
	+ One or two LA social care officers- ideally, one adult and one children’s services
	+ One CCG officer and/or one health provider representative
* One of this group must act as the Lead Reviewer

**The Process**

One day based in the local area requesting review - Lead Reviewer to link with local area Link Officer

* Two weeks before, Lead Reviewer requests lines of enquiry plus evidence base from Link Officer within area undergoing peer challenge
* Lead reviewer presents summary information to review team
* Day of the peer challenge- All reviewers based on site 9.30 to 4.30 (parent/carer timings may vary)

**Sample Review Day Programme**

9:00 - 9:45 Introductions and clarification of process

9:45 - 10:45 Local Area being reviewed presentation and questions

11:00 - 12:30 Focus groups for first two lines of enquiry, including review of information provided (to run concurrently)

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30 -15:00 Focus groups for third and fourth lines of enquiry (to run concurrently)

15:00 -16:00 Review team develop conclusions and feedback for Local Area

16:00 - 16:30 Initial Feedback and questions

**After the Review**

After one week, Lead Reviewer provides draft report for reviewers to agree/develop.

Within two weeks, report sent to reviewed Local Area, to be agreed and checked for accuracy etc.

It is for the reviewed Local Area to determine whether to publish the report.