

The Suffolk SEND system has volunteered to participate in the national programme of survey work across 18 local areas, also known as the Area SEND Interim Visits, led by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This will take place between now and March 2021.

On October 13th and 14th 2020, Ofsted and CQC will visit Suffolk to understand more about the support for children and young people with SEND during the COVID-19 pandemic and to gather evidence to inform future national improvement across Education, Health and Care. The voices of children, young people and families will be gathered through case studies and via a survey from Ofsted and CQC.

The aim of these visits is to:

- Support the local area to understand the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND and their families;
- Find out what has worked well for them during this time, what the challenges have been and lessons learned;
- Work with the local area to identify opportunities for improvement that address the challenges faced by children and young people with SEND;
- Highlight best practice case studies and share insights nationally to promote whole system learning.

Following the final feedback meeting, local areas will receive a summary note, there will be no judgements or recommendations in the note. A national report will then be published in spring 2021, reporting the learning from visits across all eighteen areas. The aim of this report is to provide whole-system improvement. More information and guidance can be found [here](#) regarding the visits.

The Suffolk Parent Carer Network currently has a survey underway that many of you will have already seen - about the experiences of families during lockdown and the return to school. While this is not part of the nationally designed Ofsted survey, SPCN will use feedback from this survey to provide evidence to Ofsted and CQC about the impact of COVID-19 in addition to the arranged visit. [Link here to SPCN survey.](#)

The Suffolk system is very pleased to have been chosen as part of this national enquiry and looks forward to using the learning from the visit to develop our support for children and their families going forward.