

Reading Area SEND Inspection

29 July 2021



Welcome



Di Smith

Board Chair

Brighter Futures for Children



Setting the context

Niki Cartwright

Director of Joint Commissioning

Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group



Deborah Glassbrook

Executive Director of Children's Services for Reading

Borough Council and

Brighter Futures for Children

Our inspection

- Took place between 21-25 June and involved health services and schools in the borough, Brighter Futures for Children and Reading Borough Council.
- Inspectors spoke to children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers.
- 2 presentations and 23 focus groups
- 8 visits to settings
- 140 colleagues across Reading met with inspectors
- 99 documents uploaded to the portal
- 115 children's EHC plans shared



Process since inspection visit

- Draft report received
- Factual accuracy check and revisions offered
- Final report received 28 July
- Report can be shared now
- Report will be published on Ofsted website on 4th August



Reading Area SEND Inspection

The Results...



Quality of Care for SEND in Reading is Improving



With determination
to make Reading a
good place to be for
Children and Young
People with SEND



Leaders recognise
and have plans to
address the issues
that worry parents
most



Professionals work well together



There is **better** and
earlier identification
for children with
SEND



There were many examples of established co-production and joint working helping to identify children's needs in a timely way



Schools and early years settings are well supported by education and health services



Schools have collaborated to make the curriculum support all pupils to learn

Schools and early years settings are well supported by professionals. This support, together with the good range of training available, is helping practitioners to more quickly spot children who may need some extra help.



Improving outcomes include a reduction in the number of pupils being excluded from schools, by the adoption of a therapeutic thinking approach



“Improvements to services are planned and delivered in genuine partnership, with parents and young people included as standard.”



Outcomes for pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are in line with, or above, the national average by the time they leave primary school.



In secondary schools,
pupils with SEND in
Reading attain better
results than their peers
nationally



More places have now been created as part of a wider plan to increase specialist school places.



Increasingly, young people are centrally involved in the design of services.

As a result, services are more likely to be responsive to the needs of young people.



There is widespread awareness among families of where to go to find information and advice.



Inspectors highlighted some areas for development but they did not issue a written statement of actions, which is a strong indication of the level of improvement in the Reading area



Reading Borough Council



Cllr Liz Terry

Lead Member, Children's Services
Reading Borough Council



Reading Families' Forum



Alice Carter

Reading Families Forum



Reading Borough Council



Jackie Yates

Deputy Chief Executive
Reading Borough Council



Public Health, Berkshire West



Meradin Peachey
Director, Public Health
Berkshire West



Next Steps Together...



What we will be working on



- Reduce waiting times for ASD and ADHD assessments
- Improving identification of needs for 0-2s
- Support children with SEND to be ready for school
- Ongoing development of specialist education places
- Ensure all elements of children's EHC plans are strong
- Strengthen the offer for young people with very complex needs aged 18 to 25



Delivering improvements



Our revised SEND Strategy will include the learning and actions identified from this inspection

Our SEND Strategy Groups will be managing delivery of these actions, and reporting them back to stakeholders



Final words



Cllr Jason Brock

Leader

Reading Borough Council



In summary

- This inspection has validated what we know and what we still need to do
- We have achieved a significant amount and have made good progress
- We are a strong local area with strong partnerships
- We have more to progress and more to achieve
- We are looking forward to working together to make sure we continue on this positive trajectory and to make Reading a good place to be for children and young people with SEND.



Questions and comments

