



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SEND INSPECTION Update

Dear FACT Members

Since we were told on Monday that the SEND Inspection is to happen next week, we have been putting into action our planned response.

Firstly, we prepared a note to members which we circulated via our mailing list and via social media. We did this to supplement the official letter which the Council is required to send to all parents of children and young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire. For most parents this letter should have come through the setting or school. We have discovered today that some have not yet received the letter, so please do share this and our earlier note with any parent. We have worked hard to ensure that as many parents as possible know it is happening.

Secondly, we have been involved in numerous preparatory meetings and discussions with the Council and others ensuring that there will be a FACT representative present in every focus group next week. The areas of Focus will be Early Years; Assessment; Transition to Adulthood; Vulnerable Groups; Social Participation; Identification & Early Intervention; Outcomes; SENDIAS; and Joint Commissioning. I also have had detailed conversations with the Designated Clinical Officer about the CQC Health specific inspection. We are also reviewing all the information being offered to the Inspectors.

Thirdly, following my meeting with the lead Inspector, we have been arranging parent focus groups which will provide the Inspectors with the opportunity to hear directly from parents about their lived experiences and allow the Inspectors to test elements of the evidence they are being offered. All those who have been active for FACT during the last 2 years have been invited to attend and we have also opened the offer to representatives of 14 parents support groups and organisations. In addition, the Inspectors will visit several nurseries, schools and the College later next week which will also involve conversations with parents.

Finally, we have been analysing the results of the 2022 parent survey to provide an up-to-date picture of parent attitudes upon which we can justify our input into the conversations at the start of next week. **The Inspectors want to hear about the lived experience of parents and SEND CYP in Bucks.** It is how they measure the impact of the reforms which have been developing since 2014. **So, if you have not yet completed the OFSTED survey and/or sent your views to them, please do so before midnight on Tuesday.** The links are below.

Survey

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BuckinghamshireCountyCouncilLASENDInspection/>

Email

Lasend.support@ofsted.gov.uk.

Remember we have waited 6 years for this Inspection and the next external review of SEND provision may not come until 2028, so we need to make the best use of this opportunity to keep SEND and its improvement at the very top of the Council's and Health Authority's agendas.

Andrew Howard
Chair, FACT Bucks