



NEWSLETTER

May 2022

UPDATE ON INSPECTION

OFSTED & CQC conducted their inspection of the Local Area's provision for SEND in early March. Updates were provided detailing the work that FACT Bucks did and the role we played in that inspection. The report is now published and available at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/educational-needs-disabilities-inspection-the-results/>

The letter is an externally verified statement of the SEND provision as it now exists and the 1000+ comments alongside those in the Annual SEND Survey, as well as the continuous dialogue that FACT reps have been engaged in over many years, have been instrumental in ensuring that the lived experience of families is clearly at its heart.

There is no rating system for the SEND Inspection (in contrast to those for schools). Instead, the Inspection team identifies areas of strength and areas for development (weakness).

The letter written to Buckinghamshire contains some significant areas designated for development and whilst noting that there are clear signs of intent to improve key aspects of the provision, it emphasises that the lived experience of families and the outcomes of children and young people have not yet been sufficiently improved and so the efforts must be ongoing. It is vital that the Improvement Journey continues at pace and FACT will remain focussed on pressing for it and highlighting when progress remains too slow.

Alongside the areas of development, there are 3 actions which have been identified as requiring significant attention. They are:-

- i. Provision of Therapies
- ii. Assessment for ASC and ADHD
- iii. Access to Community Paediatricians

It is now the responsibility of the Local Area to produce no later than 8th August a 'Written Statement of Action' (WSoA) setting out how these specific areas will be addressed. These specific actions will then be subject to ongoing review until they have been delivered to the satisfaction of the DfE and NHS England.

At a meeting this week involving the senior officers across the local area including FACT Bucks, the mechanism for populating the response was agreed and it was confirmed that this will be coproduced with families. Each action must have a clear impact statement and a linked method of measuring it. Our shared task is to move forward from the Inspection and ensure that lived experiences improve.

There will be no formal re-inspection for Buckinghamshire, but the new Inspection cycle starts in September and once again there is no set timetable for those Inspections, so the Local Area can be subject to another inspection at any time within the next 5 years.

Parent Dialogue Groups

These continue to provide specific opportunities to engage with these conversations. These are now more vital than ever to bring parent perspectives into the discussions, so please do think whether you can offer your time.

Wednesday 18th May at 9.30am for Integrated Therapies (SaLT, OT & Physio) and
Friday 1st July at 12noon for CAMHS.

There is also now a Neurodevelopmental Pathways Dialogue Group

These will be virtual. If you would like to know more please email chair@factbucks.org.uk

Parent Reps

The other way to influence the future is to become a FACT parent rep. If you want more information email admin@factbucks.org.uk