

# **Progress with the SEND reforms**

## **Challenges and opportunities ahead**

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Manchester

**Ann Gross**

**Director: Life Skills, Disadvantage and SEND**



Department  
for Education

**Department for Education**

# Aims of the SEND reforms

We want all children and young people to achieve well in their early years, at school and in college; find employment; lead happy and fulfilled lives; and have choice and control over their support.

The SEND reforms implement a new approach to join up help across education, health and care, from birth to 25. Help will be offered at the earliest possible point, with children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers fully involved in decisions about their support and what they want to achieve. This will help lead to better outcomes and more efficient ways of working.



“What makes a difference is multi-agency working, in the widest sense, including parents and carers, with the child at the heart of what we do.”

Mary Isherwood,  
Headteacher



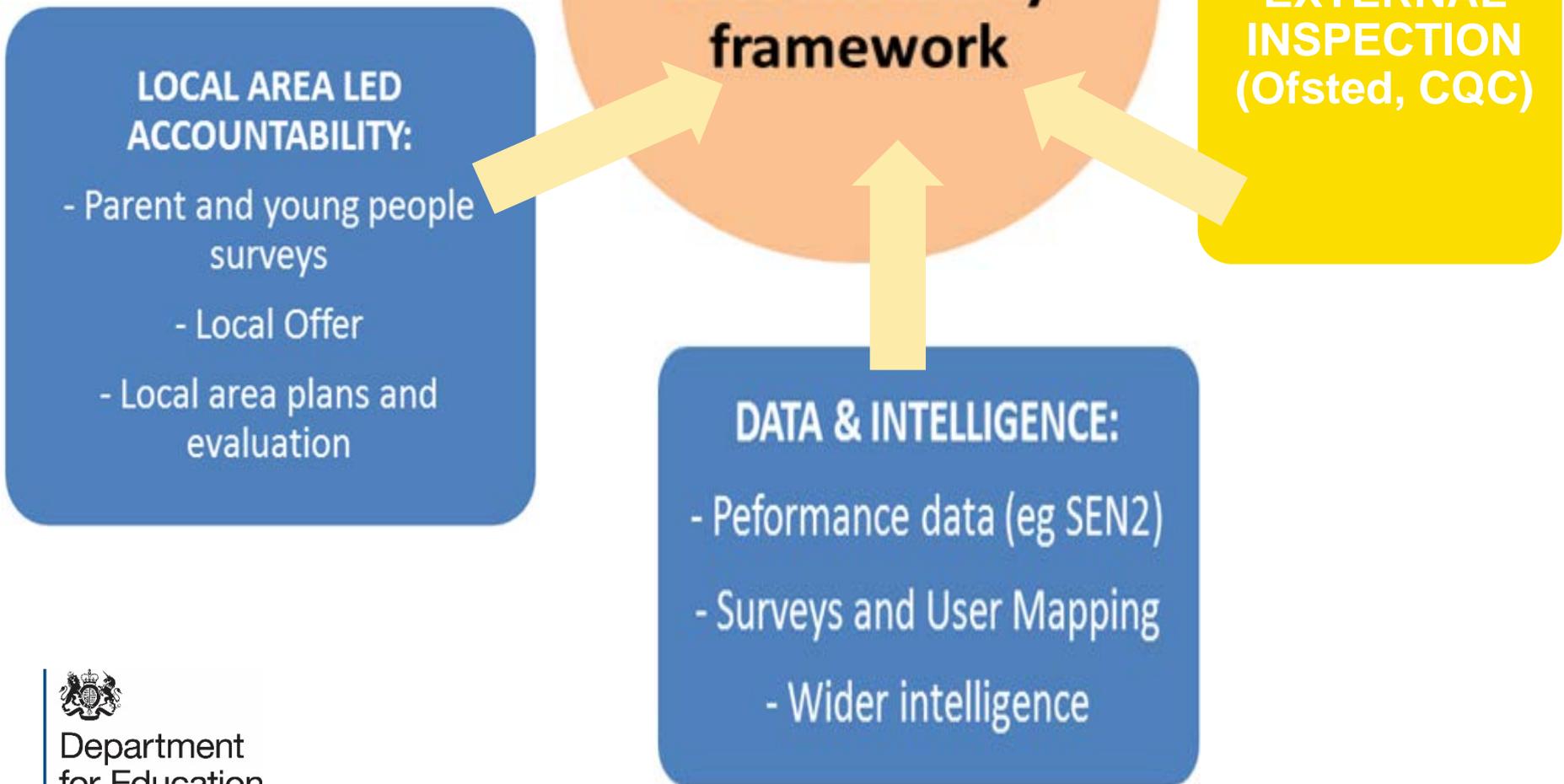
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“The SEND reforms aim to create a more fluid and inclusive system of support for me and people like me, but it will take time, patience and resources.”

Corey

Accountability model improved outcomes and experiences for family and CYP.



# Progress and key challenges

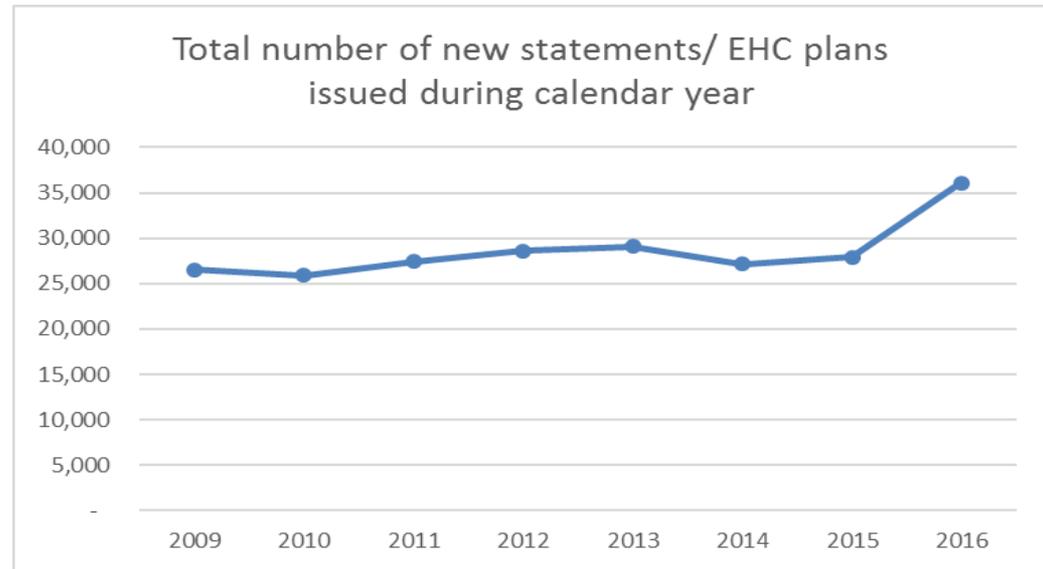
- The transfer review deadline – and quality EHC plans
- Addressing the findings of Ofsted/CQC inspections
- Quality of mainstream provision and value for money
- Joining up with health and social care
- Continued coproduction with children, young people and parents



# EHCs: progress

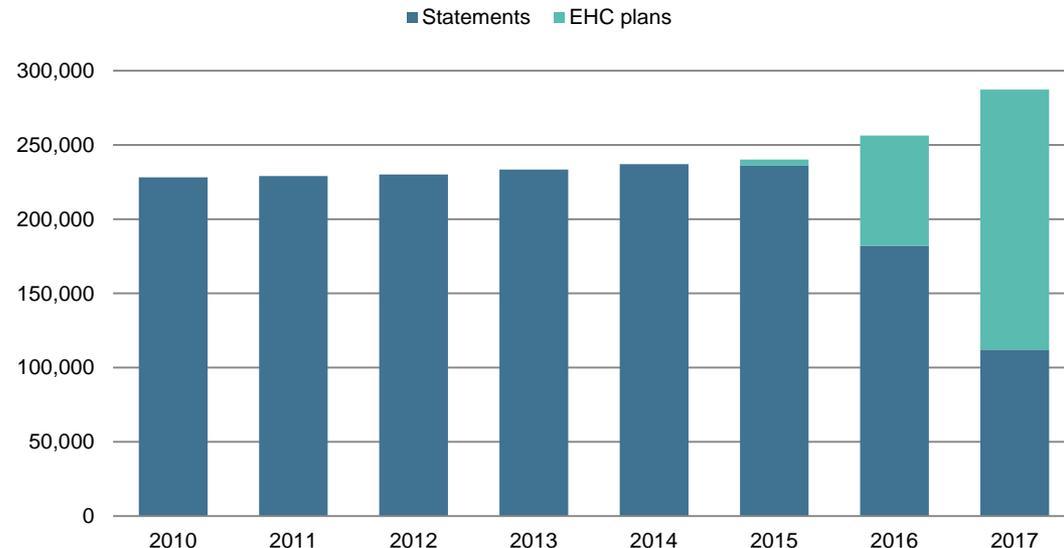
## Data published on 25 May 2017 told us:

- There is increased demand for EHC Plans - more than 8,000 more plans issued in 2016 compared with 2015.
- There are now more than 30,000 statements/EHCs in the system than last year.



## Since April 2017:

- Monthly monitoring of LA progress
- Targeted intervention to support transfer reviews
- Continued focus on quality



# Quality: User Satisfaction survey

Survey of 13,000 parents and young people who received an EHC plan in 2015.

- 66% of parents and young people were satisfied with the overall process of getting an EHC plan
- 62% of parents and young people agreed the help and support set out in the EHC plan will achieve the outcomes agreed
- 67% agreed their plan improved the child or young person's experience of education
- 62% of those whose EHC plan addressed health needs
- 62% agreed it has improved the child/young person's health or wellbeing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-health-and-care-plans-parents-and-young-people-survey>



# Ofsted/CQC area inspections

- Local area inspections introduced to support improvement and provide reassurance to families that areas will be held to account.
- Local parents and others key part of the process – to influence inspection findings and support local areas to improve as result.
- **‘One year on’ report**, published by Ofsted and CQC on 18 October 2017:
  - A wide range of strengths and areas for development.
  - Some local areas are not yet fulfilling their SEND duties.
  - We are following up with LAs – and LAs responding positively.
  - We are working closely with partners, including NHS England, to provide support and challenge.



# Quality of Mainstream provision and value for money

- The Lenehan review report – *Good Intentions, good enough?* published on 7 November 2017
  - Improved support for children and young people in mainstream provision – more provision locally, holding schools to account

## Initial Government response:

- a national leadership board for children and young people with high needs, reporting to the Minister for Children and Families.
- Guidance on statutory responsibility to visit children and young people with SEND or health conditions in long-term residential settings published
- Publication of a new resource setting out evidence on effective approaches for children and young people

The Secretary of state committed to publishing a fuller response to the recommendations next year.



# Health and social care

- A Single route of redress: National Trials
  - Two year national trial expanding powers of the First-tier Tribunal SEND
  - A more holistic view of the child or young person's needs
  - Encourage joint working
  - Bring about positive benefits to families.
- Working with NHS England:
  - to improve joint working at a local and national level, including through post inspection support and challenge
  - Transforming Care programme, including the Children and Young People Steering Group
  - the 2017-18 NHS Provider Contract includes, for the first time, a requirement to report on meeting the 6 week deadline for health input into EHC plans.
  - NHS Mandate contains an objective on SEN and disabilities, and the NHS Assurance Framework, which is used to hold CCGs to account, now contains measures on SEND.



# Coproduction

**Levels of engagement of children, young people and parents in strategic planning and coproduction of SEND services – May 2017 LA/PCF surveys**

## Local Authorities

- 20% of children are fully or largely engaged (13% in the last survey)
- 40% of young people are largely or fully engaged (30% in the last survey)
- 84% of parents are fully or largely engaged (83% in the last survey)

## Parent Carer Forums

- 10% of children are fully or largely engaged (7% in the last survey).
- 19% of young people are fully or largely engaged (15% in the last survey).
- 64% of parents are largely or fully engaged in strategic planning (60% in the last survey).

This is a model of working I want to see across the country

Robert Goodwill



# Coproduction in practice

Leaders are working closely with the parent and carer forum, Bexley Voice, to address the concerns of parents who are not satisfied with the support provided for their children.

## **Bexley Forum**

...reaching out further and deeper to access places of worship and other ethnically specific groups such as the Polish and Muslim groups. This has resulted in a membership closely mirroring the percentage proportions of the different ethnic groups in Luton.

## **Kulvinder Bola (Chair of Luton Parent Carer Forum)**



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Working in partnership with NNPCF is at the heart of the work of the Council for Disabled Children. In all of our programmes we look at the active contribution of parents and young people and the NNPCF provide a key route to making this happen.

## **Dame Christine Lenehan Director, Council for Disabled Children**

I can say first-hand how valuable their presence is and what a fantastic job they do to ensure the incredible work of Parent Carer Forums continues to be recognised by Ministers and Senior Officials

**Amanda Batten, CE of Contact**

# Priorities moving forward

- Ensuring that SEND covers the '14.4%', not just the '2.8%'
- Improving quality and outcomes
- Funding and value for money
- Inclusion in a context of increasing diversity of school and FE provision
- Working with partners:
  - health and social care partners
  - Parents and young people
- Ongoing support from the Government

