



Area SEND update NNPCF National Conference

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HMCI commentary – area SEND:

- Despite the expertise and commitment of those working in SEND in England, **we see many problems in the SEND system.**
- Recurring **weaknesses across local areas** in England include:
 - Flaws, inconsistencies and delays in the identification of children and young people's needs;
 - Too little system-wide focus on providing high-quality universal education, health and care services; and
 - A lack of clarity about who is responsible for what between organisations, resulting in fractures in the way professionals in these services work together.



Area SEND interim visits:

- Our priority has been to work collaboratively to:
 - Understand children and young people's experience and learn from what has and hasn't worked well for them and their families.
 - Support local areas to prioritise and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families.
 - Promote learning for all areas, government and stakeholders through a series of national reports.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has added to the difficulties children and young people with SEND and their families experience and further exposed the pre-existing weaknesses in the SEND system in England.



Next steps:

- Re-starting and concluding the current programme of area SEND inspections – **we will return to area SEND inspection at the right time.**
- **New area SEND framework development:**
 - A continuous cycle of inspections.
 - Focus on the experience of children and young people with SEND.
 - Quality, integration and commissioning of EHC services.
- Initial work on the **focus of inspections** and early thinking about **inspection methodology:**
 - HMCI commentary <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmci-commentary-the-future-of-area-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-inspections>.
 - Putting children and families at the heart of our plans.