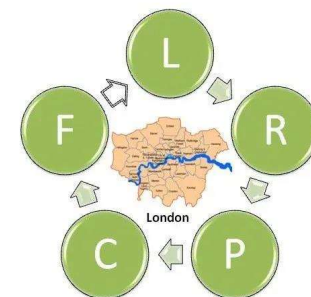


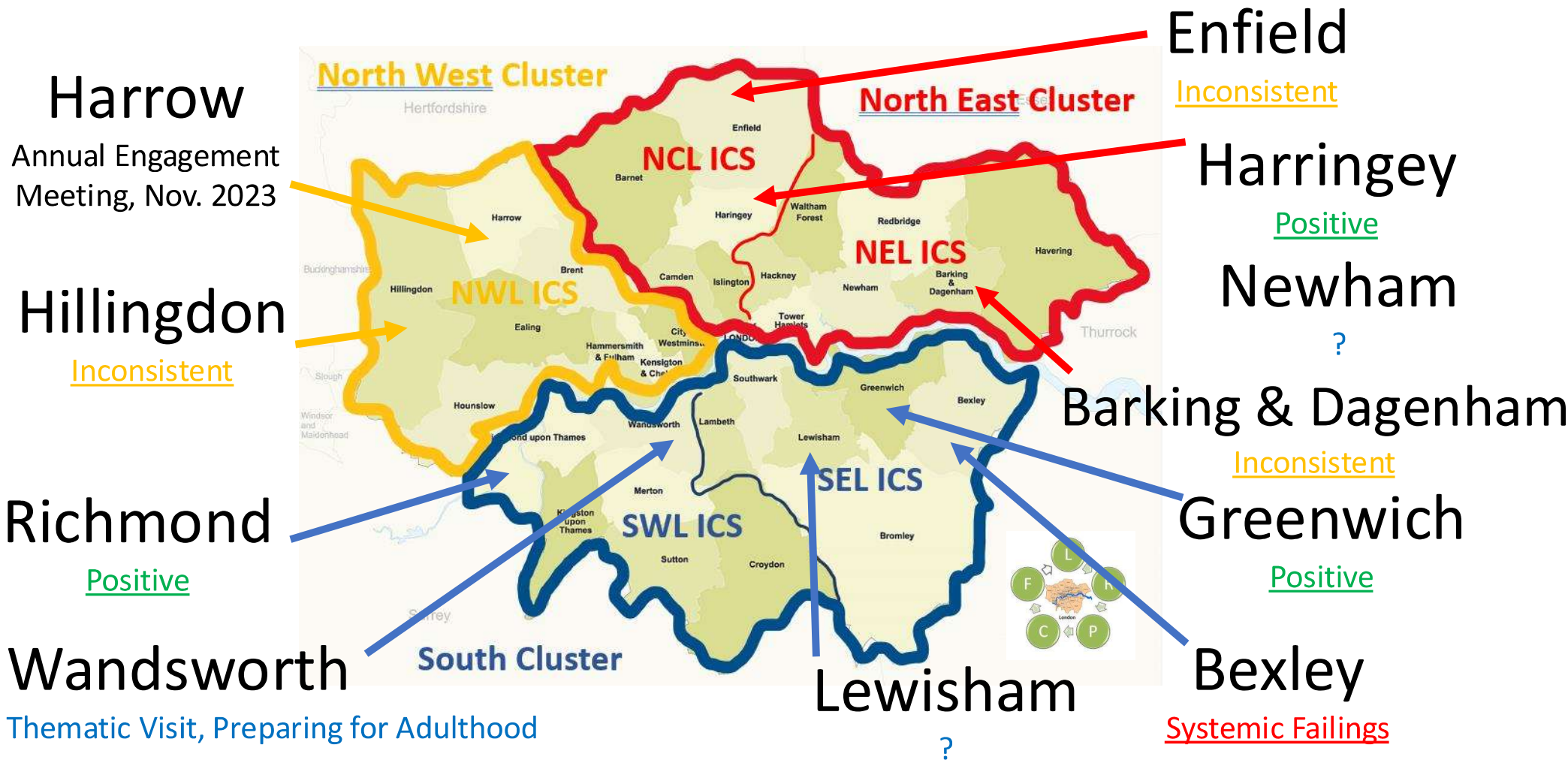
# Local Area SEND Inspections

The role of the Parent Carer Forum  
December 2023

**National Network of Parent  
Carer Forums, London Region**



# Which Areas of London have already been inspected?



# The new OFSTED/CQC Inspection Framework

- In Spring 2023 the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) implemented a new Local Area SEND Inspection Framework.
- All Local Areas will be expected to create or update existing action plans based on Inspectors' findings.
- The inspection result will affect:
  - How closely the Local Area's progress against their action plan will be monitored
  - How soon the Local Area will be re-inspected
- Local Areas can now receive one of three judgements from inspectors. Those judgements are:



The local area partnership's arrangements typically lead to **positive** experiences and outcomes. Re-inspection will take place within 5 years.



The local area partnership's arrangements lead to **inconsistent** experiences and outcomes. Re-inspection will take place within 3 years and progress against the action plan will be monitored



There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to **significant concerns** about the outcomes for children and young people with SEND. There will be a monitoring inspection within 18 months and full inspection in 3 years

# Different types of inspection

- **Full Inspections**

(every 3-5 years depending on the result of the previous inspection)

- **Monitoring Inspections**

This is when Local Areas have had a Priority Action (similar to the old Written Statement) identified during a previous inspection. Monitoring inspections check progress against the Priority Action Plan

- **Engagement Meetings**

Annual 'check ins' to make sure the Local Area remains on track. The Forum should be included in this meeting and any preparation. Local Areas are usually given 3 weeks notice of an Engagement Meeting and will be expected to prepare a comprehensive presentation.

- **Thematic Visits**

A small number of Local Areas will receive these visits that will look in depth at a particular aspect of the SEND system.

# Evaluation Criteria

## **Outcomes for Children and Young People with SEND:**

- children and young people's needs are identified accurately and assessed in a timely and effective way
- children, young people and their families participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support
- children and young people receive the right help at the right time
- children and young people are well prepared for their next steps, and achieve strong outcomes
- children and young people are valued, visible and included in their communities

## **The Local SEND System:**

- leaders are ambitious for children and young people with SEND
- leaders actively engage and work with children, young people and families
- leaders have an accurate, shared understanding of the needs of children and young people in their local area
- leaders commission services and provision to meet the needs and aspirations of children and young people, including commissioning arrangements for children and young people in alternative provision
- leaders evaluate services and make improvements
- leaders create an environment in which effective practice and multi-agency working can flourish

# How are parent carers involved in the inspection?

Parent Carers can share their experiences with Inspectors in the following ways:

- By completing the online or hard copy OFSTED survey (when prepared and available)
- Sharing feedback with the local Parent Carer Forum
- Writing to inspectors at the LASEnd@ mailbox
- An interview with inspectors as part of 6 randomly chosen case studies
- As requested by inspectors based on their 'key lines of enquiry' and focused sampling of EHCPs

Inspectors use survey responses and feedback from the Parent Carer Forum to signpost to what is and isn't working well in the local area.

**There is no longer an open meeting with Inspectors and local parent carers**

# The OFSTED Survey

- Inspectors rely on survey responses to direct their 'key lines of enquiry'
- One of the most meaningful contributions the Forum can make is to promote the OFSTED survey
- Parent Carer survey responses during London inspections have been low
- The Parent Carer survey is available online and via hardcopy
- While the online survey has some accessibility features, it is only published in English
- Return mechanisms for hard copy surveys are via Local Authority offices which compromises anonymity
- Online survey respondents have to input their postcode which compromises anonymity
- The Child and Young Person survey can only be completed by those over the age of 11

<b>Local Area</b>	<b>Total No. CYP with SEND in Local Area</b>	<b>Parent Carer Responses</b>	<b>CYP Responses</b>	<b>Practitioner Responses</b>
Richmond	5,000	280	36	200
Enfield	10,000	260	Not known	150
Greenwich	9,000	200	Not known	Not known

The data in this table is approximate and numbers of survey responses are not published by OFSTED/CQC

# Case Studies and Tracking of CYP with SEND

Inspectors will choose (up to) 6 children and young people to look at in depth and 'track' between inspections.

The local area sends headline data about every child and young person in the SEND data base (including those on the SEN Support Register) to the inspection team. This will include information like if they have an EHCP, what type of school or college they attend, their age, if they are being Looked After.

6 children and young people will be chosen by inspectors to ensure a broad range of experiences including:

- A child accessing Alternative Provision
- A child that is Looked After
- A young person over the age of 16
- A child or young person who does not have an EHCP

System leaders and practitioners working with the child or young person will know that they are being 'tracked.'

Expect questions from local parent carers about the process of selecting the case studies (usually fuelled by concerns that the Local Area has 'cherry picked' children and young people with positive outcomes.)



# The Inspection Timeline

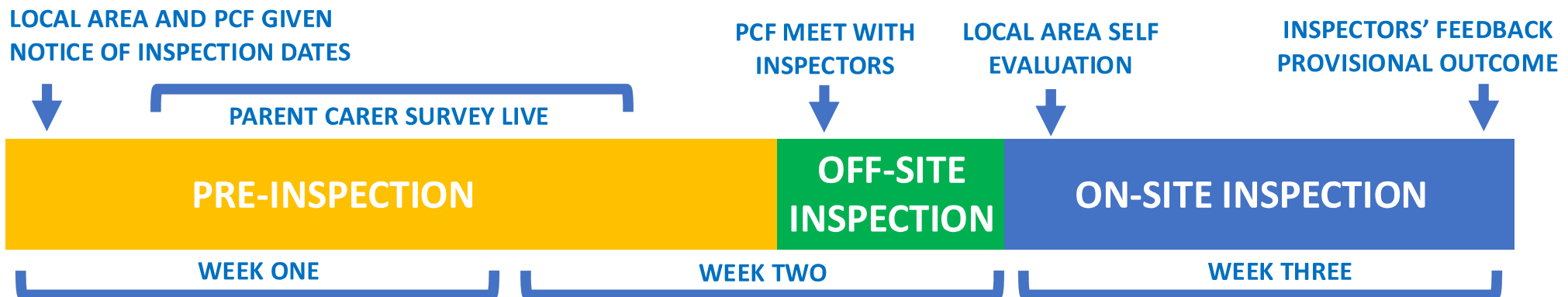
The **inspection** is a **three week process**, although the inspection does not formally conclude until the evidence has undergone a rigorous Quality Assurance process and the final report is published

A **draft** of the **report** will be sent to the local area approximately **30 days after** the on-site **inspection ends**.

The local area will have the opportunity to challenge inaccuracies and make a formal complaint about the process or result. The final report will be published on the OFSTED website here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

The timeline for publication varies depending on whether corrections have been requested or a complaint has been made  
Publication timescales - Richmond 59 days, Enfield 130 days (complaint submitted by LA), Greenwich 53 days

**All aspects of the inspection remain confidential until the final report has been published**



# Week One

## **Day 1:**

Local Area (including Parent Carer Forum) are informed of the dates inspectors will visit and when the parent carer, practitioner and child & young person surveys will open.

- During your call with the Lead Inspector make sure you exchange contact details
- Ask the names and roles of the Inspection Team
- Find out who the Local Authority Nominated Officer (LANO) is
- Establish what the arrangements are for obtaining and submitting hard copy surveys
- Promote and encourage local parent carers to complete the survey and confirm when the online survey will close

## **Day 2/3:**

Survey opens and will remain open for around 1 week. The survey will close before the offsite inspection begins.

## **Days 2-5:**

The Local Area Nominated Officer (LANO) will co-ordinate the schedule for the off-site and on-site inspection including all meetings, site visits and consultations.

The Local Area will obtain consent from the families of the 6 selected children and young people to participate in the inspection case studies.

# Week Two

**Day 1/2:**

Parent Carer, Children and Young People and Practitioner Surveys close

**Day 4:**

Off site inspection begins:

- Local Area Context meeting
- Meeting between Inspectors and Forum

**Day 5:**

Key lines of enquiry determined and CYP selected for focused sampling of EHCPs

# Week Three

## **Day 1:**

Local Area Self Evaluation Meeting

## **Days 1-4:**

Visits to education, social care and health settings. Consultations with parent carers, children and young people, practitioners and system leaders as determined by key lines of enquiry and outputs from case studies/focused sampling of EHCPs

The local area Parent Carer Forum may be asked to join additional meetings during the on-site inspection week depending on 'key lines of enquiry.' Co-production is important in the new inspection framework and Forums have been asked to join additional meetings focusing on co-production with parent carers.

## **Day 5:**

Feedback Meeting with Inspectors and provisional judgement given.

If possible, ensure that at least two members of the Forum attend this meeting. You will not be able to share the feedback or the inspection outcome with anyone who doesn't attend this meeting, including other members of your PCF Steering Group/Committee before the report is published (average time to publish is 2 months.)

Take detailed notes (and a proficient note taker) if you can, the feedback from inspectors during this meeting is more comprehensive than the published report.