

"An independent voice influencing change by representing what matters to SEND families in MK"

PACA MK- Milton Keynes Parent Carer Forum welcomes the findings of the Local Area SEND Inspection.

The findings of the report will very likely not come as a surprise to SEND families in Milton Keynes and we feel the report highlights the SEND services provided by Milton Keynes City Council and the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (ICB), particularly what is it like to be a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in the area and where if needs are not identified quickly, they sometimes escalate, meaning some children and young people require more intensive support later.

The report identifies the following Inspection Outcomes: The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Special educational needs/or disabilities (SEND).

The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.

This reflects what our families have been telling us that the wait for services is too long and families are not getting the vital help they need in a timely manner. As a Forum we are committed to addressing this crucial issue and the other identified weaknesses mentioned in the report especially around EHCPs and the variability in the coherence and relevance of EHC plans and outcomes. We also feel it is important to highlight that some of the work mentioned by Inspectors as "strengths" have been done in co-production with ourselves as a parent and carer forum including our families' feedback which has been greatly appreciated. We would encourage more SEND families to get involved with us as a forum to continue to raise these areas of need.

We hope the findings of the report will be used to implement real change at pace and to encourage strategic partners to continue to listen to children, young people and their families and to really embed coproduction as standard practice. We will continue to work with our partners to further Influence services and bring real and meaningful change for the Children & Young People with SEND and their families living in Milton Keynes.

MK Local Area Partnership will need to publish a strategic plan outlining how it will address the recommendations. This will be published on the <u>Local Offer</u> on 27th June.