

# The North of England Inclusion Conference

DfE Perspective

**André Imich**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
**The Principal Hotel, York**

**#NEIC19**

# *The North of England Inclusion Conference:*

## Facing the challenges and opportunities of SEND and Inclusion into the Future – The DfE Perspective



York 11 March 2019



Department  
for Education

André Imich, SEN and Disability Professional Adviser, DfE

# Implementing the SEND Reforms – Moving on post-April 2018

- Since April 2018, we have been in the next phase in the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- This presentation will reflect on the:
  - current challenges
  - evidence of progress and successes since 2014
  - point the direction for future priorities



# What we have achieved so far

- The CFA 2014 set a very ambitious agenda for SEND – an outcomes-focused, person-centred and collaborative system.
- The 2014 reforms remain the right ones, and the Department is committed to seeing them through.
- We are encouraged by the early evidence of the impact of their implementation in improving the lives of CYP with SEND.
- We know there is much more to do to embed the reforms and achieve consistency across the country.
- Our focus now is on improving quality, and continuing to invest in sharing best practice and driving improvements.



# A challenging context for delivery of reforms (I)

- **LA capacity:**
  - Staff turnover and training needs
  - Challenge of delivering the culture of the 2014 reforms
- **Pressures on places:**
  - Increasing demand for special school places
  - Accountability system does not reward mainstream schools for inclusion
  - Challenge of managing a complex and autonomous range of providers
  - Importance of parental preference; statutory right to appeal to Tribunal
- **Financial pressures:**
  - Increasing spend on high needs provision
  - Growing pressure for provision for young people aged 16-25



Pressure on wider LA budgets (e.g. social care, transport)

# A challenging context for delivery of reforms (II)

- **Strategic planning and commissioning**
  - Join up with health and social care, esp. for complex needs
  - Building local services: role of local offer
  - Post-19 provision and focus on supporting YP into employment
- **Relationships with parents**
  - Developing/ maintaining co-production
- **Relationships with schools**
  - SEN support
  - Support from wider services
- **Wider context**
  - Exclusions (Timpson Review) and alternative provision
  - Children & young people's mental health



# The SEN system – what the data tells us

- Total number of EHCPs held – Increase of 11.3% (2016 to 2017)
- LAs agreed to more EHC needs assessments following requests (78% agreed).
- 16.8% more new EHC plans issued in 2017 than in 2016
- 93.3% of all EHC needs assessments led to a EHC plan
- 2017 has the highest number of EHC plans held by LAs – 319,819 (2.9% of 5-16 population)
- 2017 – 11.7% of school population on SEN Support
- Improvement in 20 week timeliness of assessments – from 59% in 2016 to 65% in 2017.
  - 38 LAs over 90%; 8 LAs achieved 100%

**DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR LA STANDS  
ON EACH OF THESE DATA-SETS?**



# Levels of SEN identification (2017)

		<b>England</b>	<b>Northern LAs</b>
SEN Support	Average	11.7%	12.0%
	Range	6.8% - 16.0%	8.3%-16.0%
EHC plans	Average	2.9%	2.9%
	Range	0.7% - 4.8%	1.8% - 3.9%





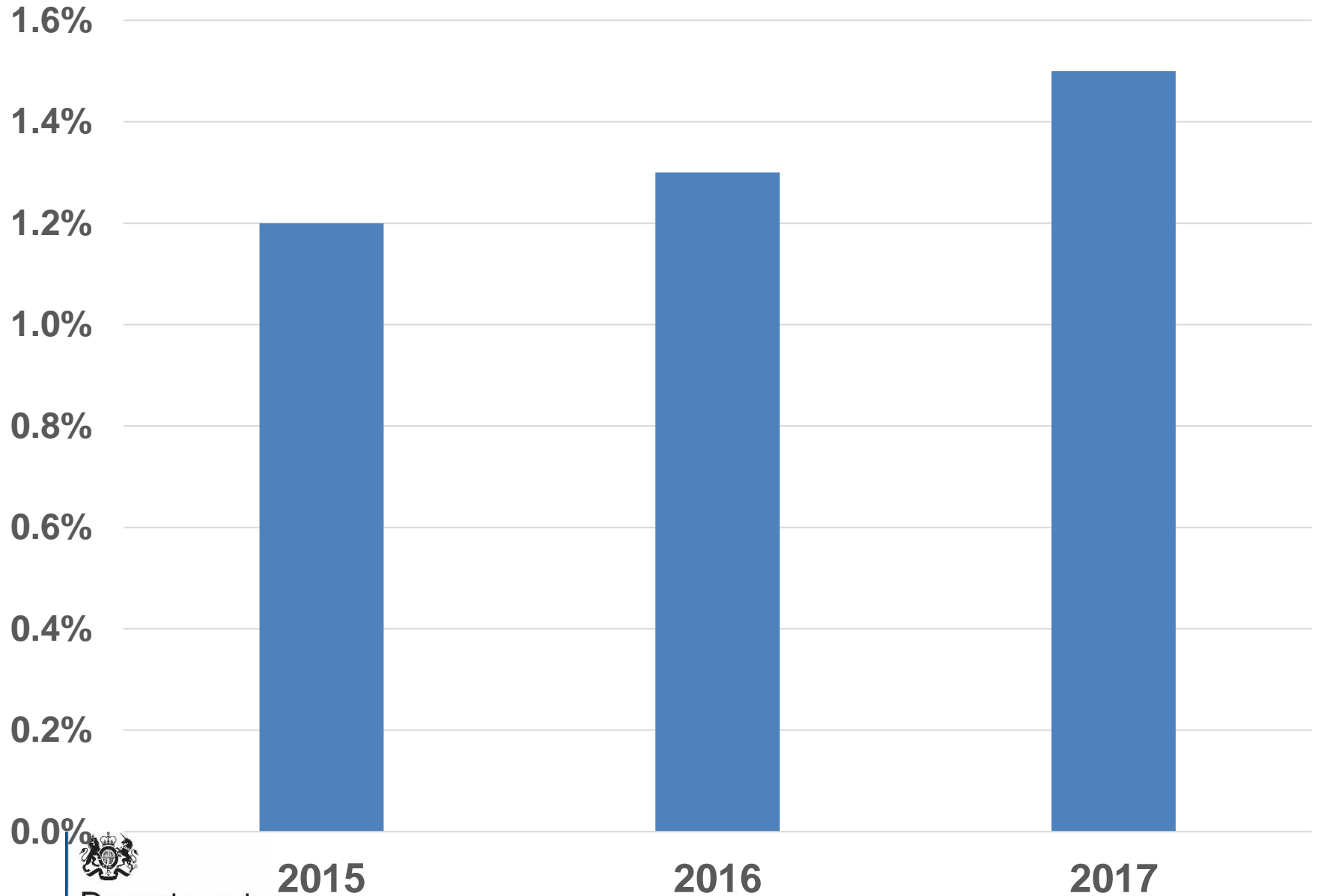
# 20 week performance - 2017

		<b>England</b>	<b>Northern LAs</b>
% new EHC needs assessments completed in 20 weeks	Average	64.9%	73.7%
	Range	1.4% - 100% (8 LAs achieved 100%)	8.6% - 100% (5 LAs achieved 100%)

- Northumberland
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Bury
- Cheshire West and Chester
- Doncaster



# National Tribunal Appealable Rate 2015-17



# Appeals to Tribunal 2017

		<b>England</b>	<b>Northern LAs</b>
Appealable Rate	Average	1.5%	0.9%
	Range	0.0% - 4.1%	0.0% - 2.2%

## **0 or 1 appeal in 2017**

- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- Blackpool
- Rochdale
- South Tyneside
- Blackburn with Darwen
- York



# School placements for children with EHC plans 2007-2018



# Implementation of the SEND reforms – Progress with key strands

1. **Co-production**  
with children, young  
people and parents

2. All parties meet their  
**statutory duties**

3. Increased satisfaction  
with access to **local  
services**

8. Improved **parental  
confidence**



4. **Accurate and  
timely identification**  
of SEN and disability

7. More YP go on to  
**post-16 education,  
training & employment**

5. **Improved attainment  
and narrowing of gap**  
for CYP with SEND

6. Strong focus on  
those at **SEN Support**



# 1. Co-production with children, young people and parents

- **Wakefield** - In almost all cases, EHC plans are completed within the required timescale of 20 weeks. Many plans, and sections of plans, are effectively co-produced with children, young people and families
- **Bolton** - The vast majority of parents felt that their views and those of their children were listened to and that their children's needs were identified well. Their opinions were taken into account by professionals and in the co-production of relevant plans for the support of their children.



## 2. All parties meet their statutory duties

- **St Helens** - Leaders and managers ensure that the statutory duties.....are at the heart of the work of services working with CYP who have SEND. Senior leaders, managers and frontline staff have embraced the spirit of the reforms, putting CYP and families at the heart of their plans.
- **Newcastle (2018)** - Extensive training and support for SENCOs support the early identification of children and young people who might benefit from further assessment. When children are identified, there are clear processes for considering EHC assessments. These arrangements are helping panels to make informed decisions.



### 3. Increased satisfaction with access to local services

- **Sheffield** – Consistently strong early identification and support for children and young people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment. Well-planned support enables these children to make a positive start in developing their communication skills.
- **Warrington** - SENDIASS works effectively with parents, carers and school staff. It also work productively with WARRPAC. SENDIASS supports parents and carers to resolve concerns at an early stage. This reassures parents and has contributed to the very low levels of appeal and tribunal against the local area.





## 4. Accurate and timely identification of SEN and disability

- **Redcar and Cleveland (2018)** - Families of young children benefit from the flexible way early years services are provided. This includes home visits and access to the services provided by children's centres. Good joined-up work between parents, carers and professionals helps to ensure that young children's needs are assessed and met well.
- **Wigan** - Leaders ..... have ensured that education, health and social care staff all contribute meaningfully to plans and that the voices of the child and family are evident.



## 5. Improved attainment for CYP with SEND

- **Rochdale Revisit** - “Clear improvements in SEN support pupils’ outcomes in the early years, KS1 and KS2. Pupils’ outcomes are on an improving trend.”
- **Gateshead** - Leaders believe that children and young people’s SEND are not a barrier to their achievement. An improving trend in educational outcomes and progress is evident since the SEND reforms were introduced.



## 6. Strong focus on those at SEN Support

- **Cheshire East (2018)** - [The SEND toolkit](#) is designed to provide cohesive provision from 0 to 25 years. Leaders in schools are very positive about its usefulness in helping to further improve and strengthen provision in their own settings.
- **Warrington** - Leaders have supported and challenged schools to improve their teaching for children who require SEN support. As a result, the proportion who attain the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of KS2 has increased year on year for the last three years.



## 7. More YP go on to post-16 education, training & employment

- **Newcastle (2018)** - The local area's focus on preparing children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities for employment is raising their ambitions and increasing their aspirations. A series of small, focused projects and initiatives are enabling some young people to secure paid employment.
- **Stockport** - An increasing proportion of young people move on to employment, education and training (EET). The increased offer of supported internships and apprenticeships provides more opportunities for these young people to gain valuable work experience



## 8. Improved parental confidence

- **Leeds (2016)** - Most parents are confident that their child's needs are being met, particularly relating to personal development, and as a result, are fulsome in their praise for individual staff across the services' workforce.
- **Lincolnshire** - The most recent PCF survey of parent satisfaction with the Liaise service was very favourable.... Parents appreciate the speedy response of social care services to concerns that are raised about CYP....The number of tribunals to resolve disputes between the LA and parents has reduced in the last year.
- **Warrington** - In the schools visited, parents and carers were effusive about the 'brilliant' ways in which a broad variety of current schools and colleges meet their children's needs.



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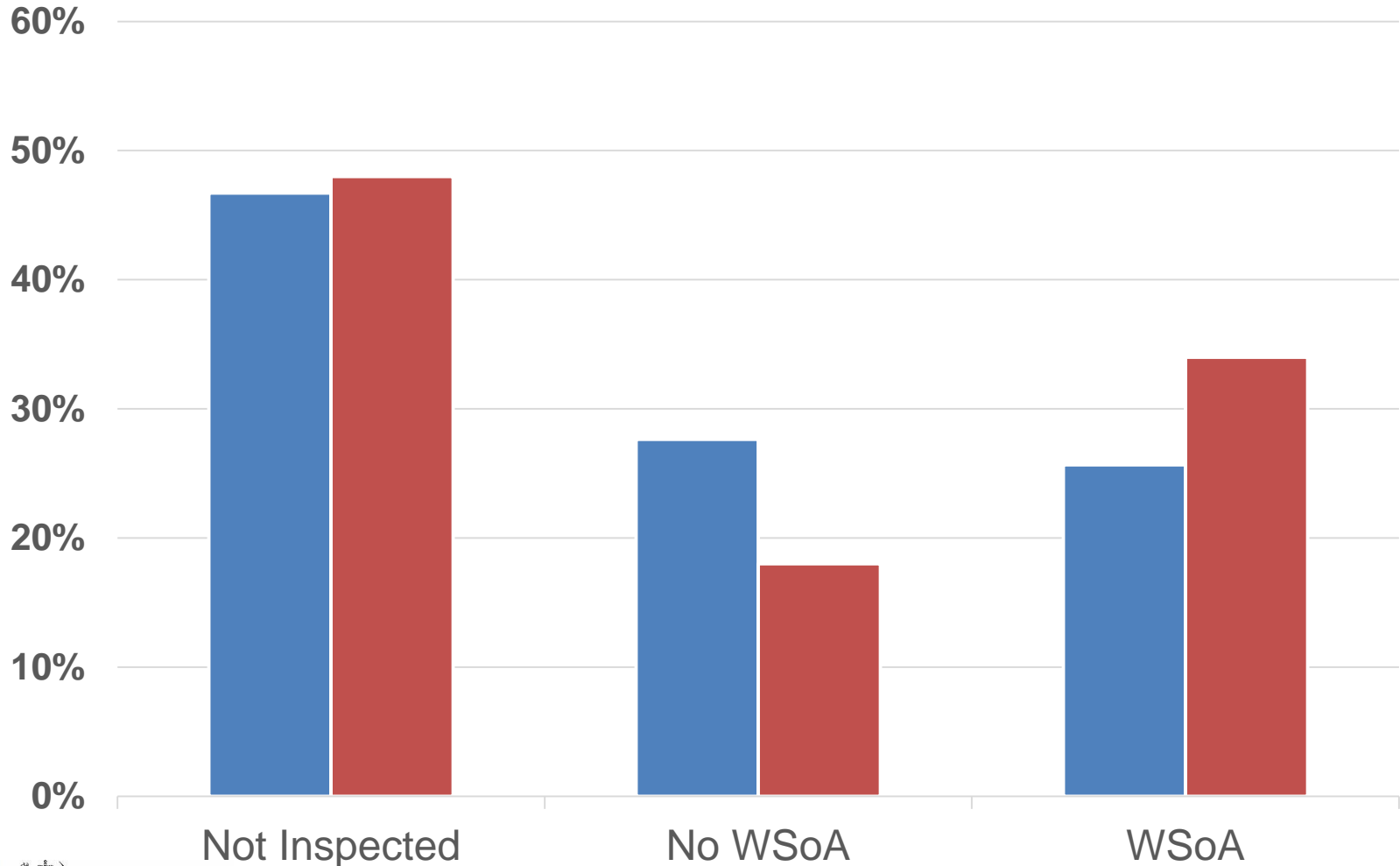
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# SEND Inspection Profile – to end Feb 2019



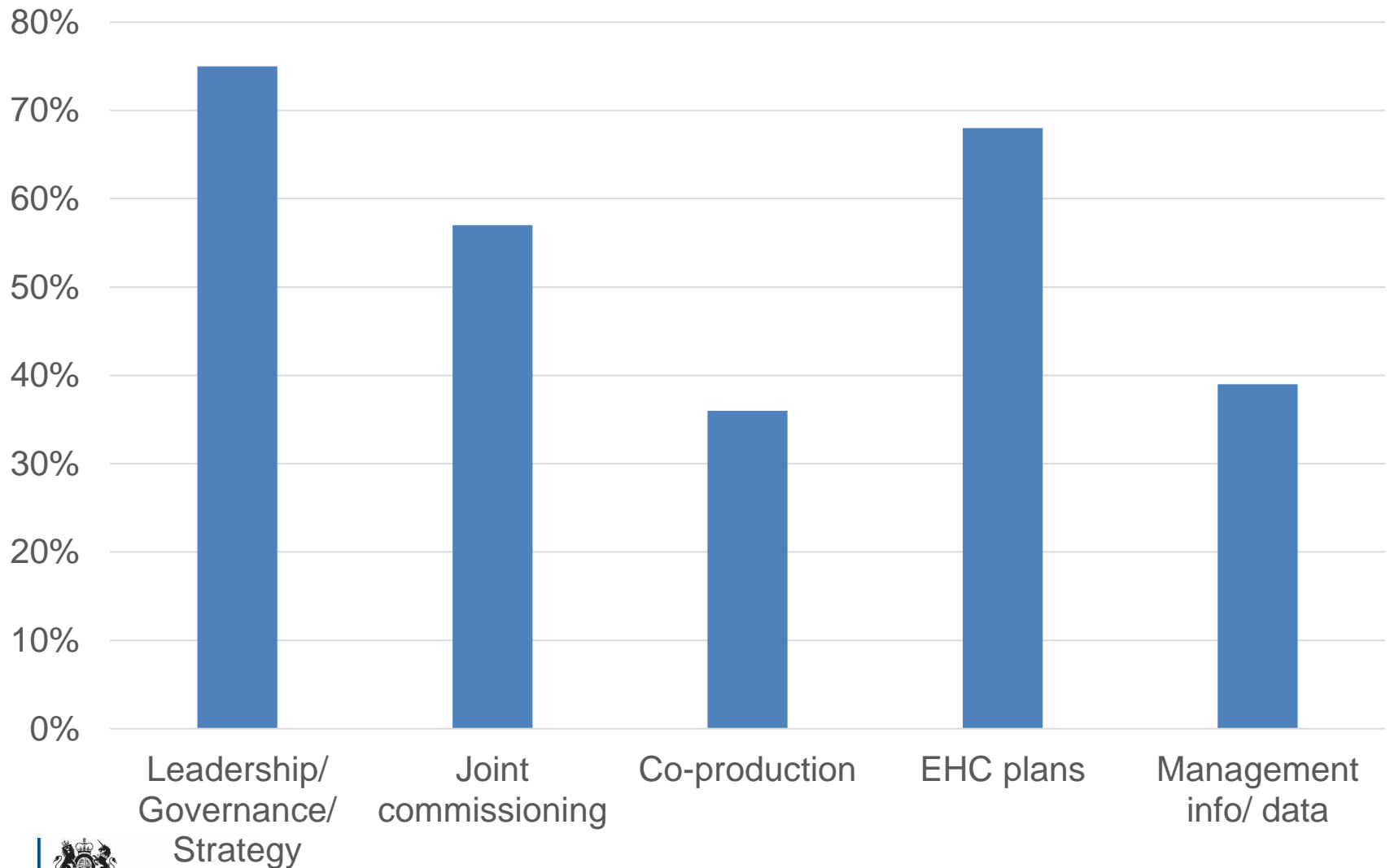
# SEND inspections – common areas of strength

- Strong strategic leadership that has led to established joint working between education, health and care services.
- Early Years services – good levels of parental satisfaction
- Co-production - parents, professionals, children and young people are working effectively together to devise and implement improvements
- Strong health engagement, inc DCO/ DMO in place





# WSoAs – common areas of serious weaknesses



# Future of inspections

*“I will be asking Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission to design a programme of further local area SEND inspections to follow the current round, due to conclude in 2021; and for their advice on further inspection or monitoring of those areas required to produce a ‘Written Statement of Action’.”*

Secretary of State, July 2018



# Leadership - Scanning the horizon

- The SEND Leadership Board
- NHS Long Term Plan, inc: Key worker role, expanded mental health services and support, and information and training on LD and autism
- Exclusions – Timpson Inquiry
- National Audit Office – SEN Study
- Education Committee – SEND Inquiry
- SEN2 Data 2019 – expected late May



# Facing the challenges and opportunities for SEND – Into the future

- Mainstreaming SEND
- Ensuring that SEND covers the ‘14.6%’, not just the ‘2.9%’ – Focus on SEN Support
- Further develop co-production with parents, young people and children
- Funding, and value for money
- Working with health and social care partners
- Improving quality of EHC plans and annual reviews
- Improving quality of, and outcomes from, providers
- Celebrating success, and learning from good practice



# Thank you



# Questions, Comments?

