

Exchange	Quality
Date of Meeting	15/01/2026
Location	Microsoft teams
GMLPN Staff	Chloe Forrest, Hannah Bolsher

Attendees
Key Themes / Discussion Points
Key Themes & Discussion Highlights 1. Ofsted Framework & Inspection Updates • New Ofsted framework launched in November, with new FAQs now available. • Early inspection outcomes show most providers meeting expected standard, with strong safeguarding results across the board. • Common areas needing attention: Inclusion and Leadership & Governance. • Inspectors emphasise secure fit - all criteria must be met to achieve expected/strong/exceptional. 2. Provider Inspection Experiences System People and Bury Adult Learning shared first-hand accounts: • Planning call is now the substitute for previous Day 1 presentations and shapes the inspection focus. • Inspectors look for clarity on strengths, weaknesses, and live data. • Evidence required: attendance, punctuality, achievement, ILPs, initial assessments, SEND support, curriculum sequencing, and 3-year performance trends. • Inspections described as collaborative, transparent, and well-being focused, though highly rigorous. • Providers encouraged to proactively showcase strengths by uploading evidence early. 3. Inclusion as a Major Change Area • Inclusion now embedded across every judgement, not treated as a standalone theme. • Inspectors track:

- Early identification of learning needs
- Proportional support
- Regular review cycles
- Employer involvement (apprenticeships)
- Evidence of belonging and inclusive practice
- Group-level performance data

4. Self-Assessment Reports (SARs) & Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs)

- Mixed approaches to using the new toolkit:
 - Some providers still aligned to the old EIF for 24/25.
 - Others fully adopted the new toolkit format.
 - Many use live SARs, updating quarterly.
- Consensus: format is flexible, but clear strengths/weaknesses and strong data understanding are essential.

5. Data Expectations

- Inspectors expect:
 - Achievement trends (3-year minimum)
 - Group analysis (gender, ethnicity, SEND, unemployed, etc.)
 - Pass rates, including multiple resit attempts
 - Clear progression and destination evidence

Resources / Links Shared

[Nominate Here | GM Skills Awards](#)

[Further education and skills inspections: frequently asked questions – Ofsted: education](#)

[\(14\) Post | LinkedIn](#)

[\(14\) The First Ofsted Report Cards: What They Reveal About the New Framework | LinkedIn](#)

[Home - System People](#)

[Bury Adult Learning Service | The Bury Directory](#)

[Adult Learning - Bury Council](#)

[Upcoming Events - GMLPN](#)

[SDN-Mesma | Achieve excellence in quality improvement & compliance](#)

[Quality Exchange 1 - Jan 26 - Mentimeter](#)

[Ofsted's Revised Inspection Framework Series - SDN](#)

Actions

For Providers

- Review and update SAR and QIP using the new toolkit where appropriate.
- Prepare for planning calls with clear strengths, weaknesses, and up-to-date data.
- Strengthen inclusion evidence (needs identification, reviews, support planning).
- Ensure all inspection-ready documents are organised and 'uploadable' quickly.
- Highlight strong practice areas proactively to inspectors.
- Ensure staff training is documented with clear impact.

For GMLPN Members

-  Next Quality Exchange: 28th April
- Email suggestions for the next agenda.
- Enter:
 - GMLPN GM Skills Awards (Deadline 13 February) [GM Skills Awards | Celebrating Excellence in the Further Education and Skills System in Greater Manchester](#)
 - Quality Professional Awards (deadline 20 March) [The Quality Professionals Awards – The Official Page of the Quality Professionals Awards for FE and Employability](#)

Next Steps

-  Next Quality Exchange: 28th April
- Email suggestions for the next agenda.