



Nadhim Zahawi MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Catherine Driscoll
Director of Children, Families and Communities
Worcestershire County Council

Simon Trickett, Chief Operating Officer, NHS South Worcestershire CCG (and Accountable Officer for NHS Redditch and Bromsgrove; and NHS Wyre Forest CCGs)

12 July 2018

Dear Catherine and Simon,

Joint local area SEND inspection – Worcestershire

I am taking a close interest in the Ofsted and CQC inspections of SEN and disability services and I read with great interest the findings in your report, published in May.

I was very concerned to read the range and scale of significant weaknesses identified, which include a lack of strategic leadership and safeguarding concerns. Inspectors also identified that the local area has not given sufficient priority to the SEND reforms. This comes, of course, on top of the wider concerns Ofsted identified in Worcestershire's children's social care services on which we are already corresponding.

I am encouraged that inspectors reported pockets of excellent practice, along with a commitment to high-quality services for children and young people with SEND. I understand that you are meeting with DfE and NHS England senior officials on 16 July to discuss how you intend to address the concerns raised by the inspection and make the necessary improvements in services. I have asked them to feedback to me following the meeting.

Ofsted and CQC will have written to you confirming the submission date for your Written Statement of Action. I ask that you publish the statement on the local authority's website and keep it up-to-date so that parents, carers, children and young people can understand the actions you are taking and the progress you are making.

As set out in the inspection handbook, I have asked my officials to inform me of your progress with delivering the actions in the statement within 12 months. I look forward to hearing of good progress in May 2019.

Anne Porter, DfE professional SEND adviser, continues to be your link contact with the department. If you do need any further advice on your written statement of action, please turn to Anne in the first instance.

I am copying this letter to Simon Geraghty (Leader of the Council), Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Nigel Huddleston MP, Rachel Maclean MP, Harriett Baldwin MP, Robin Walker MP and Mark Garnier MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nadhim Zahawi MP
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