

19 July 2018

Mr Nick Ireland  
Acting Director of People Services  
London Borough of Sutton  
Civic Offices  
St. Nicholas Way  
Sutton  
SM1 1EA

Dear Mr Ireland,

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015<sup>1</sup> to inform Sutton local authority and Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as principal authorities, that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have jointly evaluated the written statement of action submitted to us on 3 July 2018.

The statement of action is deemed to be fit for purpose in setting out how the local area will tackle the significant areas of weakness identified in the published report letter.

It is encouraging that prompt actions appear to have been taken to further clarify leaders' roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the reforms. The written statement of action provides a comprehensible framework identifying actions already taken, proposed future actions and precise timescales for completion. The three key weaknesses identified during the inspection form the focus for the statement, which demonstrates that area leaders have considered all of these carefully and thoroughly. The measures of success identified in the statement are mainly focused on impact. For example, there are precise objectives for reductions in exclusions. However, the statement would benefit from greater clarity about how leaders intend to make the link between improvements in the quality of education, health and care plans and securing better outcomes for children and young people. The statement

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<sup>1</sup> The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015  
[www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1972/regulation/4/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1972/regulation/4/made).

demonstrates an appropriate sense of urgency in strengthening resources such as the information and advice service.

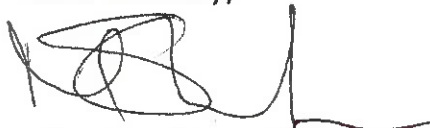
The plans would be further strengthened if specific actions detailed more clearly how groups associated with each workstream will monitor and record the outcomes of each intended action. The statement identifies those responsible for each aspect of the plan very clearly and this would help strategic leaders hold them to account for the outcomes of their work.

The statement identifies a commitment to additional resourcing for the designated medical officer (DMO) role. The DMO is identified as a key participant in the workstream related to quality assurance. However, the plan would be strengthened by defining more precisely how the DMO will contribute to the aims of this workstream in the detailed part of the plan. For example, it would be helpful if the statement indicates how the DMO is expected to contribute to training.

It is evident that representatives of parents and carers have been included in the formation of the written statement of action. Their representation in all four of the workstream groups is an encouraging commitment to coproduction.

The written statement of action must be published on local websites<sup>2</sup>, so that parents, carers, children and young people can understand the actions you are taking to improve the effectiveness of the local area in identifying and meeting needs, and improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Yours sincerely,



**Mike Sheridan, HMI**  
**Regional Director, London**

Cc Fiona Phelps, Assistant Director, Education and SEND, Sutton

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation 4 (5); [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1792/regulation/4/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1792/regulation/4/made)