

16 October 2020

Jane Moore
Director of Children and Family Services
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RF

Andy Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Paula Sumner, Assistant Director, Education and Early Help, Local Area Nominated Officer

Dear Mrs Moore and Mr Williams

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015¹ to inform the local area of Leicestershire, Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, as principal authorities, that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have jointly evaluated the written statement of action submitted to us on 7 October 2020.

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.

Your plan is comprehensive. You have provided clear timescales for actions. The plan focuses sharply on tackling the significant concerns about the effectiveness of the local area.

You correctly identify that it is essential for you to develop and implement a new joint commissioning strategy. You appropriately intend to improve the coordination of the planning and delivery of education, health and care services. Your determination to consult and work with children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their parents is evident. This shows your ambition to build trust and improve outcomes for all children and young people with SEND.

¹ The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015
www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1972/regulation/4/made.

You rightly aim to rapidly address the weaknesses in the quality of education, health and care (EHC) plans. You are accurately targeting the improvement of provision, services and EHC plans.

I suggest that you could further improve your plan by showing the current progress of actions you are taking by completing the RAG rating section. This would also help you measure the impact of COVID-19 on these actions. You could further strengthen the impact of data collected for health pathways by providing data prior to November 2020, for comparison (Appendix 1).

Overall, you have succinctly laid out your aspirations to improve outcomes and services for children and young people with SEND in Leicestershire.

The written statement of action must be published on local websites², 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 in improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Gueli HMI
Regional Director, East Midlands

² Regulation 4 (5); www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1792/regulation/4/made