



Dear Colleagues,

We recently had a revisit from Ofsted and the CQC to find out how the local area – the local authority, NHS Kent and Medway and local schools and settings – have worked together to tackle the 9 areas of significant weakness they outlined following their inspection in 2019.

I am writing to let you know that Ofsted and CQC have published their findings in a letter this morning, which states that the local area has not made sufficient progress on any of the areas of weakness. You can read the letter and our response to it on [our website](#).

Together with NHS Kent and Medway, we accept the findings outlined in the letter and offer our heartfelt apologies to all the children and their parents and carers who have been let down by our services.

We take the findings from Ofsted and the CQC very seriously, and our immediate focus now is working alongside schools and settings to make the improvements rightly demanded by families and improve the experience for children and their parents.

This includes building on the work already underway to support schools and settings to improve and build on their inclusive practice. Every child has the right to be educated in their local community and be welcomed in mainstream settings where this is in their best interests, and we recognise the work we collectively need to do in this area has fallen short of expectations.

We will now be working with the Department for Education to produce an Accelerated Progress Plan to transform services and I will write to you about what this entails as soon as I have more information.

If you have any comments or questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Hammond'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Sarah Hammond  
Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education