

3 September 2019

Mr Matt Dunkley CBE
Corporate Director- Children, Young People and Education
Sessions House
County Hall
Children, Families & Education
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Adam Wickings, Chief Operating Officer, Kent Clinical Commissioning Group
Ailsa Ogilvie, Chief Operating Officer, Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group

Dear Mr Dunkley, Mr Wickings and Ms Ogilvie

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015¹ to inform Kent Clinical Commissioning Group, Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group and Kent county council, as principal authorities, that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have jointly evaluated the written statement of action resubmitted to us on 7 August 2019.

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.

I note that the written statement has been improved in several ways. More direct links have been made between the planned actions and outcomes for children and young people. Actions showing how inclusion will be developed and areas of weakness identified are more developed. The need to ensure that all schools play their role in the local area features more strongly. The planned involvement of parents and carers in designing and reviewing services has been strengthened.

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

As a result, the plan now provides actions that more clearly recognise and address the strategic challenges facing the local area. This increases the likelihood that, by completing the action plan, children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities will experience the support they need.

As Phil Minns HMI explained when he met with you on 16 August, 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 improving outcomes for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Russell HMI
Regional Director, Ofsted South East

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