

The Axis
10 Holliday Street
Birmingham
B1 1TF

T 0300 123 1231
Textphone 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ofsted
correspondenceWestMidlands@ofsted.gov.uk



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Dr Catherine Driscoll
Director of Children, Families and Communities
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

Mr Simon Trickett
Accountable Officer
NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
The Coach House
John Comyn Drive
Perdiswell
Worcester
WR3 7NS

Dear Catherine

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015¹ to inform Worcestershire County Council and the various commissioning groups, as principal authorities, that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have jointly evaluated the written statement of action submitted to us on 20 August 2018.

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

I note that you have acted swiftly to address the potential safeguarding concerns brought to your attention during the inspection. You have rightly prioritised co-production alongside evaluation and opportunities for feedback on the services you are providing. You have also clarified and strengthened the model of governance for special educational needs and/or disabilities, appointed a designated clinical officer and have explained clearly how the different workstreams will be held to account in

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

the implementation of the written statement of action through clear, deliverable targets.

The statement of action should be further improved by:

- ensuring that actions you are taking are fully focused on the resulting outcomes for children and young people in Worcestershire. For example, objective 3.4 is heavily focused on the quality assurance framework for education, health and care (EHC) plans rather than the quality of the outcomes for the child or young person
- ensuring that you include a variety of health providers in updating and maintaining the content of the local offer in objective 1.1
- stating explicitly how you will ensure effective social care input into EHC plans in objective 3.5 as this objective is currently focused on health input only
- ensuring that in objective 3.6 you state clearly how schools, parents and carers will work as partners in the process of developing policy and advice relating to children with complex health needs in schools and educational settings.

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

Lorna Fitzjohn HMI
Regional Director, West Midlands

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