

Mr Dwayne Johnson
Director of Social Care and Health
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
9th Floor, Merton House
Stanley Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 3JA

Mr Peter Wong, CCG Chief Officer, South Sefton and Southport and Formby

02 March 2018,

Dear Dwayne & Peter,

Joint local area SEND inspection – Sefton

I am taking a close interest in your progress with improving SEND services following the identification of significant concerns by Ofsted and CQC in the report published in January 2017.

I am pleased to see evidence of strong progress with your Written Statement of Action over the last 12 months. I am encouraged by the commitment to joint working across partners, including with schools, to improve attainment of children and young people with SEND.

I also note the strengthened joint commissioning arrangements, including a stronger Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) role; and a new performance management arrangement for key health services, which will help to improve the parity of access to services across the whole of Sefton.

I am reassured that SEND services in Sefton are improving and grateful to you, your colleagues and partners, including schools and families, for the energy and commitment you are showing to continuing the progress you have made so far.

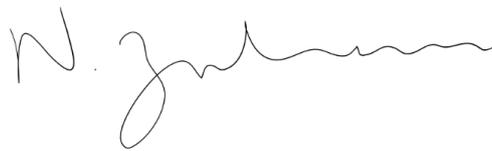
It is important you continue to engage families to raise their satisfaction and confidence levels and that you continue to work across services to ensure an accurate picture of the combined needs of children and young people with SEND, to ensure adequate services in the local area. Finally, it is of course, crucial, to continue to measure the long-term impact of the improvements you are making on improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.

I ask that you review and update your written statement of action and continue to make it available online so that families and partners can see the progress - and impact - of your actions. I would be grateful if you would write to me with an update on progress by 28 February 2019.

Cath Hitchen, our professional SEND adviser, remains your main link to the Department. If you do need any further advice or support, please contact Cath in the first instance. Christine Griffith-Evans, of NHS England, will be your contact there.

I am copying this letter to Ian Maher (Leader of the Council), John Kelly (Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Safeguarding), Bill Esterson MP, Peter Dowd MP, Damien Moore MP, Sean Harford (National Director, Education, Ofsted) and Nigel Thompson (Head of Inspections at Care Quality Commission).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Thompson', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.