



Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State for Children and Families

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Ms G Hopper
Director of Children's Services
Rochdale Borough Council
Number One Riverside
Rochdale
OL16 1XU

Mr S Wootton, Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officer, NHS Heywood,
Middleton and Rochdale

6th December 2017

 Dear Ms Hopper

Local area SEND inspection – Rochdale

I am taking a close interest in your progress with improving SEND services following the identification of significant concerns by Ofsted and CQC in November 2016.

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 engagement with schools, including training to head teachers and SENCOs and that exclusions for children and young people with SEND have fallen. It is positive that the timeliness of therapeutic interventions has improved and that you are on track to complete the transfer of statements of SEN to quality EHC plans by March 31st.

I am reassured that you will build on the progress already made and ask that you continue to monitor the impact of your work with schools and other partners, on improving outcomes, including attainment and further reduction of exclusions. It is also important 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 improvements, and impact, your actions are making.

I am grateful to you, your colleagues and partners, including schools and families, for the energy and commitment you have shown to bring about this improvement and I would be grateful if you would write to me with an update on progress by 30 November 2018.

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. Mandy Low, of NHS England, will continue to be your contact there.

I am copying this letter to Donna Martin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Richard Farnell, Leader of the Council, Tony Lloyd MP, Debbie Abrahams MP and Liz McInnes MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long vertical stroke at the bottom.

Robert Goodwill MP
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