

Ms Sally Robinson
Director of Child and Adult Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Ali Wilson, Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees CCG Chief Officer

02 March 2018

Dear Sally & Ali

Joint local area SEND inspection – Hartlepool

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

I am pleased to see evidence of progress with your Written Statement of Action over the last 12 months. I am encouraged by the commitment of local leaders to working together to improve services and that you have a strong understanding of the progress you are making.

It is positive that the timeliness of new EHC plans is improving and that you are on track to complete the transfer of statements to EHC plans by March 31st. It is promising that engagement with schools is supporting better identification of pupils needs and I am pleased that you are trialling an innovative approach to monitoring the improvement in outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

I am reassured that SEND services are improving in Hartlepool and 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.

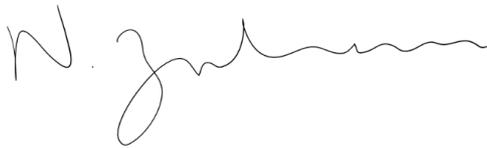
It is clearly important to build on the momentum of the last 12 months and continue apace to bring about the long-term sustainable progress that is required. This includes improving the ASD pathway and increasing levels of satisfaction amongst families, including through clear and timely information.

I have asked my officials, working with NHS England, to continue providing support and advice. 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 improvements, and impact, your actions are making. I would be grateful if you would write to me with an update on progress by 28 August 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. Christine Brown, of NHS England, will continue to be your contact there.

I am copying this to Mike Hill MP, Cllr Christopher Akers-Belcher (Leader of the Council), Alan Clark (Chair of Children's Services Committee), 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 horizontal flourish extending to the right.