



Edward Timpson MP
Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families

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20 April 2017

Mrs Hilary Brooks
Interim Director of Children's Services, Southampton City Council
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Southampton
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Stephanie Ramsey, Director of Quality and Integration NHS
Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group
John Richards, Chief Executive Officer, NHS Southampton City Clinical
Commissioning Group
Jo Cassey, Local Area Nominated Officer

Dear Hilary,

Joint local area SEND inspection in Southampton

I am taking a close interest in the Ofsted and CQC inspections of SEN and disability services and reading the reports as they are published.

When I read the report on Southampton, published in March, I was reassured by the strengths identified, including the excellent joint commissioning arrangements between education, health, and care, which is leading to better coordination of services for children and young people with SEND and their families.

Overall, I have been encouraged by the response from leaders in local areas to the inspections. In particular, it has been refreshing to see senior officers in local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups taking joint ownership of the findings and working together to improve services.

I ask that you continue using the learning from the inspection to support ongoing improvement of all services for children and young people, including developing and shaping your Sustainability and Transformation Plans. Please focus not only on your areas for development but build on your strengths and continue sharing your effective practice with other local areas.

Our SEND adviser, André Imich, continues to be your link contact with the department, and is able to help with your plans to address the areas for development identified in the inspection. If you do need any further advice or support, please turn to André in the first instance.

kindest regards,

Edward

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