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28 June 2018

Ms Margaret Whellans
Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UJ

Nicola Bailey, Chief Officer, Durham Clinical Commissioning Group
Paul Shadforth, Local Area Nominated Officer, Durham Local Authority

Dear Ms Whellans

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015¹ to inform Durham local area, as principal authorities, that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have jointly evaluated the written statement of action submitted to us on 18 June 2018.

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

The intended outcomes of the plan are now sharper and there is greater clarity about the individuals or groups who are responsible for monitoring the delivery of the plan. As a result, your determination to make a difference to children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is more explicit. While the regularity of monitoring is mentioned at various points in the plan it may be helpful to also consider specific detail about how you will evaluate the impact of actions taken.

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.

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

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

Yours sincerely



Cathryn Kirby HMI

Regional Director, North East, Yorkshire and Humber