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19 March 2020

Dr Jacqui Jensen
Executive Director People
Bristol City Council
Council House
College Green
Bristol
BS1 5TR

Dear Dr Jensen

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015¹ to inform Bristol local authority and Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, as principal authorities, that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have jointly evaluated the written statement of action submitted to us on 7 March 2020.

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 report letter.

I note that the statement of action considers the five areas of significant weakness that were identified in the published report. You have included named officers with their agreed roles and responsibilities against each action planned. This comprehensive approach demonstrates the local area's commitment to working with the area's clinical commissioning group and a range of partners and stakeholders which includes schools, health services and social care.

Your intention to work with children, young people and their families, as well as all stakeholders, is carefully woven through each aspect of your planned work. The plan shows clearly how you will take into consideration the views of children and young people, as well as their families. For example, you will involve them in developing clear and transparent criteria for decision making processes, including how SEN funding is allocated. You are also setting up systems to enable parents and carers to hold leaders to account to ensure that they adhere to these criteria.

Throughout the plan there are clear and precise success criteria and milestones. You recognise the very low starting point of the local area. You identify in your plan that

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

you will need two years to achieve your ambitions and ensure that every child and young person identified with a special educational need and/or disability receives the support they need.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Bradley Simmons HMI
Regional Director, South West

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