



Nadhim Zahawi MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Anne Ainsworth
Acting Corporate Director for Children and Young People
Birmingham City Council
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Rachel O'Connor and Paul Jennings, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical
Commissioning Group
Simon Field, Local Area Nominated Officer

17 December 2018

Dear Anne, Rachel, Paul and Simon

Joint local area SEND inspection – Birmingham

I am taking a close interest in the Ofsted and CQC inspection of special educational needs and disability (SEND) services and I read with great interest the findings in your recent report.

I was encouraged to read the positives in the report, including the quality of service being provided by many of Birmingham's front line staff. However, your report highlighted a number of areas of significant weakness, including in strategic planning, commissioning and leadership; poor communications with parents and between agencies; and disappointing outcomes for pupils who have SEND.

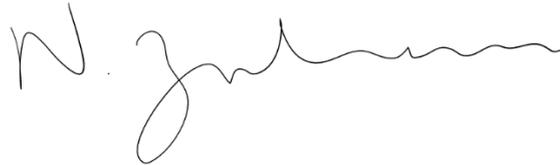
I am reassured by feedback from the Department's senior officials about Birmingham's commitment to improving services and encouraged that immediate action is being taken. I am particularly pleased that senior leaders from health, education and social care are working collectively with determination on the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) and that they have reached out to the newly-formed Parent Carer Forum to ensure their views are heard. I ask that you publish the statement on the local authority's website and keep it up-to-date so that parents, carers, children and young people can understand the actions you are taking and the progress you are making.

You will be aware that Ofsted and CQC will revisit you within 18 months of their approval of the WSOA to assess progress with addressing the weaknesses set out in the inspection letter. I have also asked Charlie Palmer, DfE professional SEND adviser, to continue to be your link contact with the Department. Sue Nicholls and Jacqueline Barnes remain your contacts at NHS England.

I look forward to hearing of good progress being made with improving services.

I am copying this letter to John Bostock from the Children's Services Improvement and Intervention Unit at the DfE; Charlie Palmer and Jacqueline Barnes, DfE and NHSE Advisers; Ian Ward, Leader of the Council; David Bridgman, Head of Service, Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review; and MPs David Bridgman, Preet Gill, Jack Dromey, Roger Godsiff, Liam Byrne, Richard Burden, Khalid Mahmood, Steve McCabe, Andrew Mitchell, Jess Phillips and Shabana Mahmood.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nadhim Zahawi MP
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