



**Edward Timpson MP**  
Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families

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20 April 2017

Mr Pinaki Ghoshal  
Executive Director of Children's Services  
Brighton and Hove City Council  
Bartholomew Square  
Brighton  
BN1 1JA

Mr John Child, Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officer  
Ms Regan Delf, Local Area Nominated Officer

*Dear Pinaki,*

**Joint local area SEND inspection in Brighton and Hove**

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 Brighton and Hove, published in July, I was reassured by the strengths identified, including that families are well supported and benefit from services that work very cohesively together; and children and young people with SEND achieve strong outcomes.

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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