

28 November 2019

Ms Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Director of Children's Services, Peterborough Local Authority

Ms Jan Thomas, Cambridge and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
Peterborough City Council

Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE1 1HF

Copied to: Helen Gregg, Local Area Nominated Officer

Dear Ms Ogle-Welbourn and Ms Thomas

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015¹ to inform Peterborough local authority, and the Cambridge and Peterborough 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 15 November 2019.

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.

The written statement of action includes appropriate arrangements to ensure accountability for the impact of the planned actions. There is a multi-disciplinary approach to the planning and implementation of the improvements needed, and responsibilities are shared among senior leaders. Timescales are suitably ambitious for the intended impact and are spread sensibly over the 18-month period of the plan. Desired outcomes are generally clear and match with the requirements of the disability and special educational needs reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

Senior leaders could consider the following aspects to strengthen the written statement of action:

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

- Consider whether social care leaders have sufficient strategic input into to the implementation and evaluation of intended actions and impact.
- Make sure that the impact measures are specific enough to determine whether the difference made is ambitious enough. Avoid statements that refer to impact solely as 'increase', 'benefit', 'fewer' and 'better'.
- Throughout the plan, the focus is on reviewing current arrangements, taking actions to address weaknesses and completing the tasks. An example of this approach is the continence pathway, where the plan describes a review of pathway and then publication of the revised pathway (1.2b). Consider adding, where appropriate, arrangements to evaluate and check back to see if the revised pathway is having the desired impact.
- Consider amending the measures for reducing the use of part-time timetables and increasing the uptake up for annual health assessments, so that practice improves for all (3.3, 4.1).
- The impact stated in 3.3 as 'For the first time the Healthy Child programmes have a sharper focus on children and young adults with SEND', is confusing.
- Be explicit about what the 'the range and availability of opportunities' is likely to include for young people aged 18 to 25 years (5.1).

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

Paul Brooker
Ofsted Regional Director, East of England

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