

Graham Farrant, Chief Executive, Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole (BCP)

Patricia Miller OBE, Chief Executive, NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board (ICB)

By Email.

04 August 2023

Dear Graham and Patricia,

I'm writing following the meeting held on 11 July 2023, to review the local area's progress against the Written Statement of Action since Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) SEND service in June 2021. My team would like to pass on their thanks to colleagues for their attendance and contribution to the meeting, particularly Parent Carers Together and the Parent Carer Foundation for sharing their experiences and those of families in BCP.

In addition to the discussion at the review meeting, we have also considered wider evidence of progress including guidance from DfE and NHSE SEND advisers, information presented at SEND Improvement Board meetings and available performance data.

This letter accompanies a more detailed monitoring report that the DfE SEND advisor has produced with support from the NHSE SEND advisor, in regard to the local areas progress against the 8 areas of significant weakness identified in the 2021 inspection.

Overall, a lot of work remains in addressing the many areas of concern identified in the 2021 SEND inspection. There has been a lack of pace and consistent impact across the improvement activity that has been taken forward to date, which means that the lived experience of children and young people with SEND in BCP, and their families is poor and, in some instances, reported as worse than two years ago.

As you'll be aware, if Ofsted and CQC were continuing in their normal inspection cycle, the BCP area would have been expecting their revisit to have taken place by now or for it to be imminent. Given the lack of progress over the last two years, the DfE and NHS England would like to call a senior officials meeting with attendance from key figures from the Council and the ICB, including but not exclusive to the Council's Chief Executive, Director for Children's Services, Chief Executive of the ICB and the Chief Nursing Officer of the ICB to discuss and agree a plan for how you will ensure that much needed pace and drive is provided to improving the areas outlined in the Written Statement of Action plan.

Mohamed Jimale, the DfE case lead for BCP will be in touch to co-ordinate this meeting in the coming weeks. Please do liaise with him if you have any questions about the content of this letter.



Department
for Education

**South West Regions Group
Second Floor
3 Glass Wharf
Avon Street
Bristol
BS2 0PS**

I am copying this letter to Cllr Richard Burton, Cathi Hadley, Debbie Simmons, David Freeman, Mark Harris, Lorraine Mulroney, Jill Crook, Graham Carr, Salam Katbi, John Coughlan, Gabrielle Stacey, Mark Tucker, Gemma Blackmore and Mohamed Jimale.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Woodhouse'.

**Hannah Woodhouse
Regional Director
South West Regions Group**