



Date: 07th May 2019
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Dear Colleagues,

Publication of the Joint Inspection of the Local Areas' effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Today Ofsted/CQC have published their report following the local area joint inspection in February this year. You can find the report at <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/education/Sendi.As> with school inspections, the report details strengths and areas for improvement. Where there are significant concerns the local authority and health are required to produce a Written Statement of Action within 70 working days of publication.

I have to report that the inspection did highlight some significant concerns, which require us to produce a Written Statement of Action.

The focus of the inspection was, quite rightly on how we collectively work together to deliver the best services, opportunities and outcomes we can for all children and young people with SEND. In that spirit, we will be taking swift and robust action to put things right in partnership with you, parents, carers, children and young people and health colleagues. We know that we cannot do this on our own and will be seeking your support in developing the Written Statement of Action.

A number of you had already signed up to work with us on the SEND Improvement Programme at our workshop event on 11th April and Anne Birch, as the Strategic Improvement Lead for SEND will be setting up a series of further engagement workshops for you, health colleagues, parents, carers, and young people during the summer term.

Whilst this is a disappointing outcome, what is important is what we do now to put it right and I am confident that together we will make rapid progress in addressing the concerns set out in the report.

I would also be grateful if you could distribute the attached letter for parents and children at your school as well as publish it on your school website and notify parents by text that it is available to read and that they will be receiving the letter.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Rowe
Director of Children's Services

Sarah Shingler
Chief Nursing Officer/ Director of Quality