



Department
for Education

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
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John Readman, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director of People
Vanessa Wilson, Director of Children, Young People and Maternity, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Louise Mason-Lodge, Director of Nursing and Quality, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Siân Rees, Local Area Nominated Officer, Cumbria

13 February 2023

Outcome of Local Area SEND Revisit report: Next Steps

Dear Mr Readman, Ms Wilson and Ms Mason-Lodge

We have received a copy of the Joint Area SEND Revisit report, conducted by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission between 5 and 8 December 2022. As you know, the revisit was to determine whether you have made sufficient progress in addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed in your Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

It is reassuring to see that the revisit was able to confirm that the local area has made sufficient progress in tackling seven of the nine areas of significant weakness that were identified in the initial inspection.

The revisit report also recognises that more work is needed to address two remaining areas of significant weakness from the original inspection:

- lack of trust and faith in the local area's work from too many parents and carers
- weaknesses in the approach to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people with SEND, particularly those with ASD who face challenges in relation to their social, emotional, and mental health

I know that you have been thinking carefully about how the local area will provide assurance to children, young people and families that these weaknesses will be addressed, and how the two new local authorities, Cumberland and Westmoreland & Furness, can work together with health partners in order to do so.

Given the amount of progress highlighted in the revisit report, we think it proportionate to provide support and challenge, through the Department's Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) process, rather than through statutory intervention.

To allow us to monitor your progress in addressing these areas of concern and to allow us to provide appropriate and timely support, we ask that you provide us with the APP following the guidance set out in Annex A of this letter. This action plan and supporting analysis will help DfE and NHS (E) assess what actions you are taking that will bring about the required improvement in services.

I ask that you submit your APP, by 20 March 2023 to
SEND.INSPECTIONS@education.gov.uk.

A progress review meeting with the Department and NHS England will take place within six months of the revisit report being published. SEND and NHS England Advisers, Kevin Burns and Christine Brown, Janet Wray, Lindsey Marlton and Gareth Llewellyn as your DfE Case Lead, will continue to provide you with support and challenge during this period. Should you have any questions regarding the APP process, please do not hesitate to contact them.

I am copying this letter to Stewart Young Leader of the Council, and to John Metcalfe, the Chief Executive.

Yours sincerely,



Carl Fagan
Regional Lead
SEND Improvement and Intervention
Department for Education (DfE)

CC: SEND Lead, Mulroney Lorraine (NHSE), Leader of the Council, Chief Executive Officer Cumbria County Council, SEND/NHSE Advisers.

Annex A: Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) for a Local Area following the judgement by Ofsted/CQC that sufficient progress had not been made against the weaknesses outlined by the Inspection

Name of the Local Area	
Date of Inspection	
Date of Publication of the revisit report	
Accountable Officers from the LA and CCG	
SEND and NHS England Advisers	

Governance and Accountability

Please describe here the governance and accountability structures and processes that will be supporting your next phase of improvement. Please make clear which are information/reporting lines and where the challenge accountability sits within both the Local Authority and the CCG.

Governance and accountability structures and processes

The focus of this plan is each area of weakness from the original inspection where, in the revisit, Ofsted/CQC have judged that sufficient progress has not been made. For each weakness, you should identify:

- *The actions you are taking to achieve improvement.*
- *The timescales for completing actions*
- *The KPIs that you will use to measure the success/impact of the actions.*

Area of weakness identified in the original inspection				
Actions designed to lead to improvement				
Action	By when	Responsible officer	Action RAG	KPI used to measure

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Actions designed to lead to improvement				
Action	By when	Responsible officer	Action RAG	KPI used to measure

If you have a council wide risk register format you can insert that here, otherwise please use this one. At this stage it is critical both for yourself, DfE and DHSC that you identify early any risks and can demonstrate appropriate and decisive action. The progress of your Plan will be evaluated with you initially at 6 months to determine any further action which may be required.

Risk Register

Date	Risk	Severity/Impact	Mitigation	Severity / Impact Post-mitigation	Progress following action

Impact score card

This is the summary of all the ways you are going to measure the overall effectiveness of your plan.

KPI reference	KPI	Baseline	3 months	6 months	12 months