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25 April 2018

Ms Amanda Hatton  
Director of Children's Services  
Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Fishergate  
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Mr Mark Youlton, CCG Chief Officer, East Lancashire  
Mr Denis Gizzi, CCG Chief Officer, Chorley, Greater Preston and South Ribble  
Ms Hilary Fordham, CCG Chief Operating Officer, Morecambe Bay  
Mr Peter Tinson, CCG Chief Officer, Fylde and Wyre  
Mr Mike Maguire, CCG Chief Officer, West Lancashire  
Mr David Bonson, CCG Chief Officer, Blackpool  
Mr Roger Parr, CCG Chief Officer, Blackburn with Darwen  
Mr Stephen Martin, Local Area Nominated Officer

Dear Amanda

This letter is written in accordance with The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015<sup>1</sup> to inform Lancashire County Council and the various Commissioning Groups, as principal authorities, that Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have jointly evaluated the written statement of action submitted to us on 17 April 2018.

The statement of action is deemed to be fit for purpose with the amends outlined below in setting out how the local area will tackle the significant areas of weakness identified in the published report letter.

I note that that the CCGs have considered cross boundary issues as part of the response. It also encouraging to see the development of individual working groups to support and monitor the delivery of action plans to implement the five strands of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015  
[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1972/regulation/4/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1972/regulation/4/made)

overarching written statement of action. Similarly, accountability for delivery of the plan through the SEND partnership board to the health & wellbeing board is appropriate. This is further strengthened by having a joint committee of the CCGs and the LCC cabinet including lay and elected members respectively.

The statement of action should be further improved by:

- having clearer outcomes. For example, the objective of an EHC plan is not to 'write standards to specific components of a high quality plan' but to ensure that plans are of a high quality that meet the needs of families and support children and young people to achieve in their education, health and care
- including health and care indicators in the SEND data dashboard (part B2 of the statement of action)
- broadening the mechanisms to identify need beyond the joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) to include other NHS and social care initiatives.

The written statement of action must be published on local websites<sup>2</sup>, 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 (SEN) and/or disabilities.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Cook HMI  
Regional Director, North West

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation 4 (5); [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1792/regulation/4/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1792/regulation/4/made)