



**Vicky Ford MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Nick Ireland  
Strategic Director of People,  
Civic Offices  
St. Nicholas Way  
Sutton SM1 1EA

James Holden, NHS South West London CCG  
Victor Roman, Local Area Nominated Officer

24 July 2020

Dear Nick, James and Victor

**Joint local area SEND revisit report – Sutton**

I did not want to let the opportunity pass to reflect on the findings in your Ofsted CQC SEND revisit report, published on 20 May 2020.

I was pleased to read about the positive actions Sutton has taken following its original inspection, and about the impact of the Written Statement of Action which was developed in response to the Ofsted and CQC findings. I was particularly encouraged by the joint working now taking place in Sutton across education, health and care - and by the impact this is having on children's confidence; the quality of Education, Health and Care plans and feedback from parents.

I know that that this positive revisit report comes as the result of a great deal of commitment and hard work on the part of the local authority, the Clinical Commissioning Group, families and front line staff across education, health and social care. Please continue to build on the good progress you have made, as well as focusing on those areas where further development is required.

I am aware that local authorities are facing unprecedented pressures arising from the Covid-19 crisis and that you and your teams will be doing everything you can to keep children safe and deliver the support they need. I would like to thank you for all that you are doing to support some of the most vulnerable children and young people in society.

I have asked our professional SEND Adviser, Debbie Orton, to retain her role as your link to the Department for Education. If you have any questions or need any further support, please contact Debbie in the first instance. Angela Overington will remain your DfE Case Lead and Jemma Sharples will continue to be your link to NHS England.

I am copying this letter to Ruth Dombey (Leader of the Council); Helen Bailey (Chief Executive) and MPs for Sutton, Paul Scully and Elliott Colburn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vicky Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first letter 'V' is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left. The rest of the name is written in a more compact, cursive script. A small dot is visible at the end of the signature, indicating the end of the word.

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