



Department  
for Education

Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
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Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services  
Helen Jenkinson, Chief Nursing Officer, CCG

22 July 2022

## **SIX MONTH PROGRESS REVIEW AGAINST YOUR ACCELERATED PROGRESS PLAN (APP)**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for meeting with DfE SEND and NHS England officials on 8 June 2022 to review the progress you have made against your APP over the last six months.

We are particularly grateful for the contributions from your Parent Carer Forum and school representatives. The evidence submitted supports strong intentions by officer leadership in Birmingham and commitment from front line staff.

The evidence provided alongside the feedback from partners demonstrated the range of actions you have taken to accelerate improvement. These included:

- The appointment of an interim Programme Manager and four interim PMOs to lead the workstreams to oversee the delivery of the APP.
- Implementing leadership and governance arrangements which appear to be working effectively.
- Programme management meetings and reporting arrangements are documented and there has been a transparency about the reality of the situation and any presenting barriers.
- The facilitation of engagement activities with families to understand the service user experience. You stated you are already using the feedback to influence the development of the SEND strategy.
- Work has commenced to improve the accessibility and currency of the Local Offer and the development of a quality assurance framework for EHC plans.

We have concluded that much of the work is at an early stage with a continued focus on actions. At your next review meeting, it would be useful to see evidence of how partners are working across all key significant weaknesses in developing joint solutions to drive improvements. In addition, where actions are being implemented, we would like to see evidence of how you are assessing its impact on children and young people.

Your next six-month review meeting will take place on 7 December 2022. In the meantime, SEND and NHS England Advisers and your DfE Case Lead, will continue to provide you with support and challenge. If you have any questions or need any further support, please contact either party in the first instance.

I am copying this letter to Deborah Brooks (Strategic Planning and PMO Manager, BCC), Victor Roman (SEND Improvement Programme Manager, BCC), John Coughlan (SEND Commissioner), Andre Imich (DfE Lead Professional Adviser), Pat Tate (DfE Adviser), Lorraine Mulroney (National Specialist Advisor-SEND, NHS England) and Deborah Ward (NHS England Adviser).

Yours sincerely,

Katie Moore

Regional Lead

West Midlands Regions Group

Department for Education (DfE)