



**Janet Daby MP**

**Minister for Children and Families**

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Amanda Beer, Chief Executive Kent County Council  
Cllr Roger Gough, Leader of the Council  
Cllr Rory Love OBE, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills,  
Kent County Council  
Sarah Hammond, DCS, Kent County Council  
Paul Bentley, Chief Executive, NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board  
Lee Martin, Executive Director for SEND, NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care  
Board

6 August 2024

Dear Amanda, Cllr Gough, Cllr Love, Sarah, Paul and Lee,

### **Local Area SEND Improvement Notice**

Following the local area SEND revisit inspection undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in November 2022, an Improvement Notice (IN) was issued to Kent County Council (KCC) with the expectation that urgent action needed to be taken to improve services for children and young people with SEND.

After the formal review meeting of Kent's Improvement Plan on the 29 April 2024 between representatives and partners from the local area, and DfE and NHSE officials, I was encouraged to read that the local area was able to demonstrate evidence of considerable progress since the IN was issued. I have noted that strengthened capacity and strong governance arrangements, alongside renewed commitment from senior leaders and improved partnership working across the local area has increased the pace of change over the last 16 months.

I have therefore taken the decision to lift the IN on the understanding that the provision of SEND services remains a priority for all in the local area. KCC has delivered against the expectations set out in the IN to improve services for children and young people with SEND, and my decision is a reflection of the hard work undertaken by the local area to improve services. However, there is still further progress to be made on the outstanding actions in your Improvement Plan.

My officials will continue to support your ongoing improvement alongside NHSE officials, through the six-monthly reviews of Kent's Improvement Plan and regular DfE attendance at SEND Improvement and Assurance Board meetings.

Thank you for the commitment and hard work of the partners and members of the SEND improvement and assurance board and I look forward to the continued

improvement of services for children and young people with SEND in the Kent Local Area in future.

I am copying this letter to Liz Flaherty, the DfE SEND Adviser for Kent, David Keaveney-Sheath and Adeline Gibbs, the NHS England SEND Advisers for Kent, Lorraine Mulroney, National Specialist Adviser–SEND, NHS England and to Kent MPs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Daby." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

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**Minister for Children and Families**