



West Kent



Eastern and Coastal Kent

Rosalind Turner
 Managing Director
 Children, Families & Education Directorate
 Kent County Council
 Room 2.39
 Sessions House
 Maidstone
 Kent ME14 1XQ

25 November 2010

Dear Rosalind,

Joint Ofsted/CQC Inspection in relation to Safeguarding and Looked after Children

Further to the publication of the Ofsted report and the impending final CQC report in relation to the above, we are writing to give our absolute commitment to addressing the concerns highlighted within the areas identified for improvement.

As previously communicated, the report is of grave concern to all of us and we are strongly committed to a programme of work with you to achieve sustainable and continuous improvement in those areas identified for joint improvement by the inspection process, in particular partnership arrangements, quality assurance and performance management.

In particular, we will seek to address the deficiencies identified within CAMHS services for looked after children, and you will be aware that work has already commenced to improve outcomes for children and young people up to 18 years across the emotional wellbeing and mental health agenda. This is a whole systems challenge, as identified in the recent visit by the CAMHS National Support Team and is being addressed by a dedicated multi-agency project group, via Lorraine Goodsell.

In relation to the health element of the inspection process, we have now received draft CQC inspection reports for East and West Kent and anticipate final reports being received by w/e Friday 03 December. The draft CQC report reinforced the health areas for improvement identified in the Ofsted report as well as further recommendations for health services.

We understand that KCC have set up an Improvement Board to implement the required actions from the Ofsted inspection. The NHS are establishing a process to address specific health recommendations. However, it would seem sensible that where recommendations require partnership collaboration, this is led through the KCC Board. We would therefore recommend that Lorraine Goodsell and another nominated colleague (to be confirmed shortly) become members of this Board.

We trust this letter provides you with the assurance you seek in our commitment to delivering the required improvements across the system.

Yours sincerely,

Marion Dinwoodie
 Chief Executive
 NHS West Kent

Ann Sutton
 Chief Executive
 NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent