Thank you for your recent feedback in regards to our draft Written Statement of Action (WSoA) which addresses the two key areas for development identified in our recent Ofsted/CQC local area inspection of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services in Cheshire East. We will ensure that the final WSoA reflects your comments and that you receive a separate response to the points you raise.

We recognise the significant challenges faced by families of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as identified by the inspectors, many of which are issues nationally. However, we know that some of our processes and support in Cheshire East are not to the standard that we all want and that our children and young people deserve. To achieve this, we are committed to working closely with young people and you as their parents/carers to better understand their experiences and how these can be improved.

Whilst the 0-25 SEND partnership already had improvement plans in place across education, health and care services, we are not complacent and recognise that there is much more to do. This is why we have set out ambitious plans to improve in our WSoA; much of which is already underway.

The draft statement has been through a number of meetings and will be discussed in public at the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 16th July, with the final version signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 24th July. The inspection letter, along with our final WSoA will then be published online on our Local Offer for SEND.
We can assure you that our plans and progress will be subject to external scrutiny and monitoring. We are required to submit the final WSoA to Ofsted by 15th August. They will determine whether or not this sufficiently addresses the areas for improvement identified through the inspection. From September 2018, we will be subject to quarterly monitoring from the Department for Education (DfE) and will be expected to evidence that our plans are making a difference.

We look forward to continuing to work together to improve the experiences and outcomes for Cheshire East’s children and young people with SEND. We are always happy to talk to you directly about any issues. Alternatively, you can email any comments or questions to SENDpartnerships@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Cllr Jos Saunders

Cabinet member for children and families, Cheshire East Council

Mark Palethorpe

Acting Executive Director of People and Director of Children’s Services, Cheshire East Council

Tracey Shewan

Executive Director of Quality and Safeguarding, NHS South Cheshire CCG and NHS Vale Royal CCG

Sally Rogers

Quality and Safeguarding Director/Executive Nurse, NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG

The Cheshire East SEND Partnership includes:

- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire East Parent Carer Forum
- Cheshire East Information
- Advice and Support
- Local community & voluntary organisations
- NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Providers of health services
- Early years providers, schools and further education