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Dear

Ofsted and CQC visit to [insert] local area

Following the Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) joint visit to [local area name], I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills and [CQC equivalent] to summarise the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Ofsted carried out this visit under a section 118(2) request from the Department for Education. CQC provided assistance to Ofsted under paragraph 9(1) of schedule 4 to the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

The visit was not an inspection. Local areas are not required to publish or share this letter. This visit was carried out as part of a series, the findings of which will be aggregated into national reports to support whole-system learning. These reports will be published on Ofsted's and CQC's websites.

Thank you for contributing valuable information. During the visit, we spoke to local area leaders, children and young people with SEND who were chosen to be part of case studies, their families, and the education, health and care professionals who work with them. We also surveyed parents and carers, as well as children and young people with SEND over the age of 16.

Context

The purpose of this series of visits is to support local areas to understand the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND and their families, learn from what has happened and identify opportunities for improvement.

You can find more information about how inspectors carried out the visit at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/interim-phase-area-send>

Inspectors were told that:

Here we will detail factual information that the local area has shared with the inspectors about the impact of the pandemic on children and young people with SEND. This will include:

- the local area's self-identified lessons learned
- information on the impact of lockdown, including any local lockdowns.

Leaders told inspectors that their emerging priorities for supporting children and young people with SEND include the following:

Here we will insert a maximum of five priorities as reported by leaders. Inspectors will agree this detail with the local area.

Ofsted and CQC will not publish this letter and will keep it confidential as far as possible. This letter will be shared with Department for Education SEND advisers and NHS England SEND advisers. These advisers may then choose to offer further support to the local area based on the findings.

Yours sincerely

[Name]

Her Majesty's Inspector, Ofsted

[Name]

Inspector, CQC