

Councillor Victoria Cusworth – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Email: victoria.cusworth@rotherham.gov.uk

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Our ref

VC/KS

Please Contact

Councillor Victoria Cusworth

Direct Line

07824895314

24th January 2025

Councillor Amanda Clarke

Elected Member

Via email: amanda.clarke@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Clarke

Question to Council – Wednesday 15th January 2025

Thank you for the question you submitted to Council on 15th January 2025. I have set out the question and my response below.

Following the local area inspection in September, please could you give me an outline of what is next for the Rotherham SEND provision?

We were pleased to get the highest outcome from the recent Local Area partnership's SEND Inspection. Inspectors were particularly impressed with the ambitious leadership and the clear strategy in place, which is based on rigorous data monitoring. This approach enables the partnership to measure success and make necessary adjustments effectively. The strong collaboration between education, health, and social care was also highlighted, ensuring that children and young people receive consistent and comprehensive support.

Parents reported positively on the support their children receive, appreciating the accessible information and the range of training and guidance provided. Additionally, the timely intervention and support from experienced early help practitioners were commended, helping children and young people successfully reintegrate into education.

The provision for children and young people with visual and/or hearing impairments was praised for its high-quality assessments and ongoing specialist support. Inspectors also noted the good access to front door child and adolescent mental health services, ensuring swift support for young people. The Dynamic Support Register was recognized for providing timely support to prevent acute hospital admissions or to plan hospital admissions when needed.

Moving forward, the council intends to build on these strengths by continuing to improve the quality of EHC plans, ensuring they contain consistent and clear information from health, education, and social care, and reflect the views of children, young people, and their families. Efforts will be strengthened to reduce long waits for neurodevelopmental assessments and improve access to occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. The council will also maintain its focus on promoting inclusion and attendance, supporting children and young people to remain in full-time education and successfully complete their studies. By enhancing support services and fostering strong collaboration, the council aims to ensure that children and young people with SEND in Rotherham continue to receive the high-quality support they need to thrive.

I hope that my response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Victoria Cusworth
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
Labour and Co-op | Kilnhurst and Swinton East Ward
Peer Mentor and Member Peer | Local Government Association Labour Group