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3rd April 2017

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Dear Mr Harford

Following my letter of the 2nd February we are writing to thank you for including a reminder to inspectors to consider how schools are meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions in your March newsletter. We recognise that signposting inspectors to Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 which sets a duty on schools to support pupils with medical conditions is a positive step towards ensuring inspectors know what to ask school heads during their routine inspections..

However, as you will be aware, at the 30th January meeting between your colleagues Joanna Hall, Deputy Director for School and John Malyn, Principal Officer for Schools and members of the Health Conditions in Schools Alliance, further action was discussed for which the Alliance still awaits a response.

Ofsted safeguarding guidance

As agreed at the meeting of 30th January, we have sent your colleagues proposed amendments to the Ofsted guidance, 'Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings' and the section 5 'School inspection handbook'. We looked at these two documents very closely and have found that insufficient guidance is given to inspectors on how to check whether schools are meeting the needs of pupils with medical conditions.

We have proposed minor changes to these documents which would ensure inspectors are prompted to ask the right questions during their discussions with school heads. Specifically, we propose the inclusion of a reference to the statutory guidance on supporting pupils at school with medical conditions at school as a footnote.

We believe that the Ofsted safeguarding guidance is the appropriate document in which to reference this information, as a child's safety and wellbeing is a safeguarding requirement. We therefore urge you to respond to the Alliance's proposed amendments.

Requiring schools to publish medical conditions policies

At the meeting it was also agreed that Ofsted officials would liaise with the Department for Education to propose introducing a requirement on schools to publish their medical conditions policies on their school's webpage. We support this approach and agree with you that it will go a long way towards ensuring schools have these policies in place. Moreover, as your colleagues pointed out, it will also ensure Ofsted inspectors are mindful to check for these policies. Alliance

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*Calls may be recorded for quality and training purposes.

members have since met with officials at the Department of Education who as of the 27th February had not received communication from Ofsted regarding this issue.

Inspector training

We were encouraged to hear that you recognise that educating inspectors on the medical conditions guidance as part of their training is essential and we look forward to receiving details of how your termly online training has incorporated this information.

Video

We are finalising the awareness raising video and taking guidance from the Department for Education on this matter. We will share with you the video we have collaboratively produced in the coming weeks which we hope will be a useful training tool for inspectors. We would equally be happy to provide input to your training programme.

The APPG for Diabetes and APPG on Epilepsy recently held a meeting that looked at how schools are supporting children with medical conditions. The Minister Edward Timpson was invited to speak at the event, unfortunately he was unable to attend, but has proposed a Roundtable with relevant stakeholders. We hope that you or representatives from Ofsted are able to participate in the Roundtable discussions.

We would be grateful if you could provide a timeframe for when the safeguarding document will be reviewed and when the e-training will be updated.

We look forward to hearing your response to our proposed amendments to the inspection documents and to continuing to work with you to achieve the best possible outcomes for children with medical conditions and their families.

Kind regards



Chris Askew
Chief Executive
Diabetes UK



Simon Evans
Chief Executive
Migraine Action



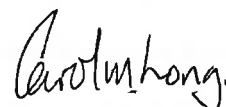
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Professional Officer School and
Public Health Nurses Association



Ailsa Bosworth
Chief Executive
National Rheumatoid Arthritis



Arlene Wilkie
Chief Executive
The Migraine Trust



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