



Edward Timpson MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Councillor Keith Wakefield
Council Leader
Civic Hall
Leeds
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27 March 2015

Dear Councillor Wakefield,

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL: OFSTED SINGLE INSPECTION (PUBLISHED 27 MARCH 2015)

I am writing following Ofsted's inspection of services for children in need of help, protection, children looked after and care leavers in Leeds, and the review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding board. I am very pleased to see the overall judgement of 'good', and particularly pleased of course to see that you have been judged 'outstanding' for your leadership, management and governance. I would like to congratulate all those whose hard work has contributed to this very strong performance.

I recognise that local authorities face significant challenges in delivering really effective children's social care services but the fact that these services are so important to the most vulnerable children means it is essential that they are delivered to a very high standard. It is clear from Ofsted's report that you have made significant progress across a range of areas, showing clearly what can be achieved through strong leadership and effective partnership work.

Ofsted's report highlights some real strengths in the Council's performance, including the robust arrangements for tackling child sexual exploitation. I was also extremely reassured to read about the extent to which the needs and views of children are placed very firmly at the heart of the Council's work.

Ofsted have, however, identified a number of areas for improvement, such as the need to improve agency attendance at all initial child protection meetings so that risk is better identified and reflected in plans for children. I look forward to reading about continued progress in these areas in your next inspection report.

Finally, I am keen to encourage effective local authorities to share their learning on how to deliver improvement and change with other authorities facing similar

challenges. I would strongly encourage Leeds to seek opportunities to contribute in this way.

I am copying this letter to Councillor Judith Blake, Tom Riordan and Nigel Richardson.

Yours sincerely,

Edward

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