



**Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP**

Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families.

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0870 0012345 dcsf.ministers@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Cllr Andrew Carter  
Leader's Office  
2nd Floor East  
Civic Hall  
Leeds LS1 1UR

22 February 2010

*Dear Andrew,*

I am writing to follow up my letter to you of 7 December and to enclose, as the next stage of our intervention, a draft improvement notice for your comments. I know there has been a good deal of engagement between your officers and officials here in developing the notice and I am grateful for their work.

I have been pleased to see the agreements we reached in our exchange of letters in December beginning to be put into place. I understand the Improvement Board, under Bill McCarthy's chairmanship, met productively for the first time on 19 January – and I look forward to seeing an Improvement Plan, to be agreed by the Board in March. I note too however, that the Ofsted inspection report on your safeguarding and looked after children provision published last month emphasises the amount of work needed to deliver the necessary step change in performance.

The primary focus of the attached Improvement Notice and the priority area for action is, of course safeguarding, but it also rightly contains targets which reflect the wider concerns set out in your Ofsted annual rating. I have a clear sense of the issues being tackled with vigour within the Council, but see this notice and the improvement plan which will follow in March as key building blocks - providing reassurance that you have identified the right issues and have realistic and sustainable plans for dealing with them.

I would be grateful if you and Bill (to whom I am copying this letter) could let me have any comments by 1 March I will then write to you formally, putting the Notice in place. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Paul Rogerson, James Rogers and to Sandie Keene.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Dawn*

**DAWN PRIMAROLO**



department for  
**children, schools and families**