

Annex 2



Tim Loughton MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 0012345 ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk

Bill McCarthy
Chief Executive - NHS Yorkshire and the Humber
Blenheim House
West One
Duncombe Street
Leeds
LS1 4P

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Dear Mr McCarthy,

I am writing to thank you for your latest Improvement Board chair's report. I was very encouraged to read that the momentum of good progress continues to be maintained, particularly on improving safeguarding services across Leeds.

It was particularly good to learn about the developing ownership by partners and the positive progress to further strengthen the leadership structure at the Council. Having a strong leadership team in place will, of course, be critical for ensuring that improvements to service practice and delivery can be sustained long term.

I read with interest the progress Leeds are making to build the future relationship between schools and the Local Authority, since education services were integrated back into Council control in April. There appears to be a strong commitment from the Council, partners and schools to work collectively together to make this happen and I welcome the city wide Education Challenge pledge to drive forward school improvement and learning. However, Leeds does have a significant number of underperforming primary and secondary schools and I am therefore concerned about the pace of progress, in particular how long it may take for the new structures and new way of working to embed before positive outcomes begin to show. I am therefore looking to the authority to engage with my officials to deliver academy solutions for those schools that have been underperforming for a number of years.

I know that Ofsted are revisiting the Council this month to carry out an inspection of their safeguarding services. That will be the most important test so far of the levels of progress achieved.

Department for
Education

My officials are due to visit you and Council officials in October to carry out a fourth review of progress within the current Improvement Notice period. I will therefore look forward to hearing about further progress, particularly on improving education services when they report back to me in November. By this time the Ofsted inspection report will have been published and I will be in a better position to reach a decision on whether the time is right to refocus or lift the improvement notices.

I am copying this letter to the Lead Member, Councillor Judith Blake, Chief Executive, Tom Riordan and DCS Nigel Richardson.

Yours ever,


TIM LOUGHTON MP