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18 December 2018

**Yvette Stanley**  
National Director Social Care

Steve Walker  
Director of Children's Services  
Leeds City Council  
110 Merrion Centre  
Leeds LS2 8DT

Via email: [steve.walker@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:steve.walker@leeds.gov.uk)

Dear Steve

### **Inspection of children's social care services**

I am writing to personally congratulate you on the outcome of your ILACS inspection which rated children's services as outstanding overall. This is a magnificent achievement and one which I wanted to acknowledge today as your report is published.

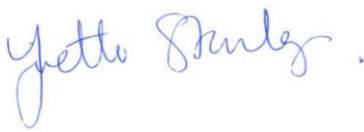
Your "outstanding" inspection outcome reflects the hard work and tenacity, of yourself as the DCS, of your leadership team, managers and frontline staff, as well as the wider council and your safeguarding partners. You should all be proud of the positive difference you have made for the children and families of Leeds. You are indeed "Child Friendly Leeds".

The whole report was a pleasure to read but I think it is particularly noteworthy that *"Substantial progress has been made in delivering this vision to make Leeds a child-friendly city. Children are placed at the centre of work within the city and strong multi-agency strategic partnerships are promoting effective practice among their practitioners."*

As we all know developing good and outstanding children's services require tenacious leadership, and the team noted that *"The leadership are committed to continuous improvement, invite feedback and engage in innovations to further enhance services."*

I know that colleagues in Leeds are ambitious to maintain and further improve the quality of services, to ensure that children and families continue to have the experiences and to make the progress that meet the local ambitions for all children, and in particular the most vulnerable. My colleagues at Ofsted and I are pleased to acknowledge your achievements to date, and I wish you all every success in the next stages of your journey.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvette Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Yvette Stanley**  
**National Director Social Care**