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Supplementary Information for 13th December 2012 Scrutiny Board Children and Families.

Agenda Item 8 – Letter to Mr Gove MP from the Leader of Leeds City Council.

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Agenda Item 8



Leader of Leeds City Council

Civic Hall
Leeds
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Michael Gove
Secretary of State for Education
House of Commons
London
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Our reference: KW/HM

Date: 7th December 2012

Dear Mr Gove

We are writing on behalf of the three main local political parties in Leeds to bring an extremely serious situation to your attention.

We all welcomed the announcement of the increase in free nursery provision to more two-year olds. This initiative repeatedly came with the promise of extra money to fund these places. The autumn 2011 budget statement highlighted that local administrations would receive *additional* funding to extend the two year old offer.

However, we note with great concern and alarm that the new funding arrangements will, in reality, lead to the removal of £8.8m in Leeds from key areas of work relating to early intervention.

We feel that spending this amount of money on Early Intervention now will save significant amounts of money in the future, and secure positive outcomes for more children and young people in the long run.

We know that you recognise the huge difference early intervention projects make to the lives of vulnerable children and families. Yet we will now be facing a drop in the formula grant for early intervention from £32.7m in 2012/13 to just £23.9m in 2013/14.

We are all aware of the challenging financial circumstances the country is facing and that makes it all the more important that vulnerable children and families are supported. We cannot afford to lose this money and urge you to give serious reconsideration to this decision, a decision that could lead to unprecedented damage to Children's Services up and down the country.

Issues raised through the LGA Children and Young People's Board, chaired by Conservative Councillor David Simmonds, show that our concerns are echoed by Local Authorities across the country, regardless of political control.

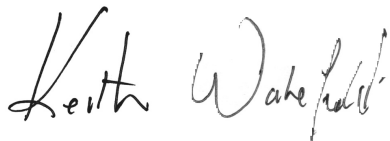
We are therefore asking you to urgently review this situation to enable us to continue the vital work to protect and support some of our city's most vulnerable children and families.

We would be pleased to provide your officials with a more detailed breakdown of the impact of these funding changes.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Yours sincerely



CLlr Keith Wakefield
Leader of the Council



CLlr Andrew Carter
Leader of the Conservative Party in Leeds



CLlr Stewart Golton
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party in Leeds