



Tim Loughton MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Bill McCarthy
Chief Executive
NHS Yorkshire and the Humber
Blenheim House, West One
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Dear Mr McCarthy,

21 July 2010

I am writing to thank you for your most recent report as chair of Leeds City Council's Improvement Board. I am pleased to hear of the progress made against the Council's Improvement Plan, and that partners are working well together to ensure that delivery of safeguarding services is properly coordinated. It is also especially reassuring that the timeliness of social care assessments is improving, and that measures are in place to develop further high standards of front-line practice.

However, it is clear that there is work to be done to embed good working practice across all levels of partner organisations, and it will be a challenge for the Council and its partners to maintain the pace of improvement in such a difficult fiscal climate. The upcoming changes in senior leadership and the Council's plans to bring education services back in-house will also need careful handling to ensure the children's services improvement work is not affected.

I welcome the news that the Council has now appointed a permanent DCS, and I trust the Improvement Board will help him to take up his new responsibilities as efficiently and quickly as possible. I wish you all the best as you take forward the improvement agenda, and I look forward to hearing of further good progress.

I am copying this letter to Cllr Keith Wakefield, Leader of the Council; Cllr Judith Blake, Lead Member for Children's Services; Paul Rogerson, Chief Executive, and Eleanor Brazil, Interim Director of Children's Services.

With best wishes,
Tim Loughton

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Thank you for all your hard work in Leeds,