



**Tim Loughton MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Councillor Kay Cutts  
Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council  
County Hall  
Loughborough Road  
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Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

30 April 2012

Dear Councillor Cutts,

Thank you for Nottinghamshire County Council's report which outlines the ongoing improvements the Council and its partners have made since I lifted the Improvement Notice in November 2011.

I was pleased to see the Council and its partners has sustained and built upon the performance improvements. In particular, I noted your success in achieving the one outstanding target regarding re-referral rates into children's social care.

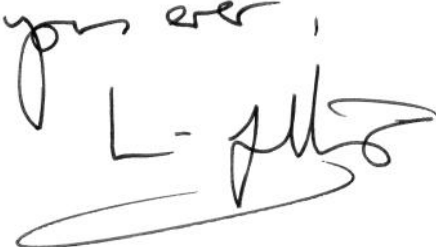
I welcome your decision to widen your improvement activity to focus on the wider aspects of the child's journey and in particular corporate parenting and ensuring that services to looked after children are improved to meet the commitments you have laid out in the Council's Pledge. The launch of the revised Pathways to Provision document and the establishment of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub should further support and embed the improvements already achieved.

I was also pleased to hear from my officials, following their attendance at Nottinghamshire's Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) in January, that the Board appears to operate effectively, with good attendance by partners and effective support and challenge. This will play a crucial role in continuing to monitor and drive the Council and its partners in providing the best possible services for the most vulnerable children, as it delivers its ambitious agenda.

May I congratulate you, your officers and partners, on the rapid and strong improvement you have achieved over the last 18 months, since the inspection. In the light of current evidence, I do not feel it is necessary for my officials to continue monitoring Nottinghamshire's safeguarding improvements.

I wish you continued success in implementing your Transformation Programme and delivery of a quality service the children, young people and families of Nottinghamshire deserve.

I am copying this letter to: Councillor Philip Owen (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services); Mick Burrows (Chief Executive); Anthony May (Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services) and Steve Edwards (Service Director for Children's Social Care).

Yours ever,  


**TIM LOUGHTON MP**