



Will Quince MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Sir Peter Soulsby
Leicester City Council
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

22 November 2021

Dear Sir Peter,

**LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL; INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES (PUBLISHED 12/11/21)**

I am writing following Ofsted's publication of its report on Leicester City Council's children's social care services, in which Ofsted has judged the overall effectiveness of these services to be 'Good'.

Delivering effective children's social care services presents significant challenges, and even more so during the Covid-19 pandemic, but the fact that they are so important to vulnerable children means it is essential that we all strive to achieve the highest possible standard. In that light, I am pleased to see that children's services in Leicester have improved from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good'.

I know that Leicester was significantly impacted by the pandemic and the additional lockdown arrangements that affected the city, so I am particularly impressed that, despite this, you have continued to deliver high quality services, ensuring that children and young people are safe and protected while maintaining a focus on improvement. I am pleased to see the strong support provided to families through effective early help, that there is strong corporate leadership including ensuring services are resourced sufficiently, and that, as Ofsted noted, the voice of the child has been integral to Leicester's improvements.

While there are still areas for improvement, as Ofsted's report highlights, I am pleased that leaders and social workers in Leicester are ambitious in their desire to improve and deliver outstanding services for the city's children and families.

Finally, I am keen to encourage local authorities to share their learning on improvement and on delivering good quality services with other authorities facing

similar challenges. I know that you are already playing a significant part in developing the sector-led approach to improvement in children's services through the East Midlands Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance. I would encourage you to continue to play a full part in this, and to continue to engage with our Regional Improvement Support Lead for the East Midlands, Stewart Bembridge (stewart.bembridge@education.gov.uk).

I am copying this letter to Cllr Sarah Russell, Alison Greenhill, Martin Samuels, Claudia Webbe MP, Jon Ashworth MP, Liz Kendall MP.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Quince', written in a cursive style.

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Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families