



**Brendan Clarke-Smith MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Matt Jukes  
Chief Executive  
Kingston-Upon-Hull City Council  
Guildhall  
Alfred Gelder Street  
HULL  
Humberside  
HU1 2AA

1 August 2022

Dear Matt,

**KINGSTON-UPON-HULL CHILDREN'S SERVICES: REVOCATION OF  
STATUTORY DIRECTION IN KINGSTON-UPON-HULL**

In March 2020 the Secretary of State took the decision to issue Kingston-Upon-Hull City Council ("the Council") with a statutory direction under s.497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996. This was in response to the further deterioration of children's social care services, following the inspection in January 2019, and the significant weaknesses in relation to SEND service provision. Paul Moffat was appointed as Commissioner for Children's Services and SEND Services in Hull as part of this direction.

At Paul Moffat's last Commissioner review (January 2022), he spoke of the positive work the Council has undertaken over the last two years, and I am aware this has continued over the last six months. In light of this progress Paul Moffat also recommended that he withdraw from the Council in July 2022. In recognition of the progress made by the Council I am content to revoke the statutory direction of 16 March 2020, in line with s.570 of the Education Act 1996, and end the requirement placed upon you to work with a Commissioner.

However, I am issuing an improvement notice to reflect that there is still some distance for the Council to travel. Until I receive sufficient evidence that DfE oversight is no longer needed, the improvement notice will remain in place. This notice will refer and apply only to the Council's children's social care services, as DfE and NHS England will monitor, support, and challenge the Council's progress

in SEND via biannual reviews of the Accelerated Progress Plan until the remaining area of weakness has been adequately addressed.

I would like to thank the Council, for their continued hard work and dedication to transforming the children's services in Kingston-Upon-Hull.

I am copying this letter to Pauline Turner (DCS), Cllr. Tock and Cllr. Ross.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Clarke-Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'B' being particularly large and stylized.

**Brendan Clarke-Smith MP**  
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