



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Secretary of State

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Colin Hilton

5 February 2014

I am writing formally to appoint you as the independent Chair of the Doncaster Children's Trust.

The Trust will take responsibility for delivery of Doncaster children's social care services this year, operating in shadow form from 1 April 2014. It will provide a new model for the delivery of children's social care services in England, one intended to drive improvement and innovation through strong independent leadership.

The role of the Chair is critical to the success of the Trust. You will be responsible for establishing a Board with the necessary skills and vision to drive service improvements through a new company, an autonomous organisation which will deliver children's social care services on behalf of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. The Trust will be established for 10 years, with a review point in 2019.

I am delighted that you have agreed to take on this crucial role and look forward to working with you. I know that you will be able to draw on your extensive experience in local government, including as Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council, and will be working closely with Alan Wood, the Commissioner I appointed last year with responsibility for children's social care in Doncaster. Alan is as pleased as I am that you will be working with him to make a real difference to the lives of the most vulnerable children and young people in the area. You have a shared ambition to secure the best possible services for vulnerable children in the area, and I am pleased to learn that you are forging a constructive relationship with the Mayor and senior officials at Doncaster MBC.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best in your new role. Implementing this new delivery model for children's social care is important for the children of Doncaster and to demonstrate a new way of delivering outstanding children's services, from which other local authorities can learn. I very much look forward to working with you.

I am copying this letter to Eric Pickles, Rob Sykes, Alan Wood and to Ros Jones.

MICHAEL GOVE