



Edward Timpson MP

Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families

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Councillor Sohail Munawar
Leader of the Council
Slough Borough Council
St Martin's Place
51 Bath Road
SL1 3UF

28 September 2016

Dear Sohail,

**INTERVENTION INTO SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES: THIRD DIRECTION**

I am writing, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education, to issue Slough Borough Council with a Direction under sections 497A(4) and (4B) of the Education Act 1996. I am grateful for the Council's engagement with the development of this Direction - which was issued in draft form for Council representations on 21 September – and for your confirmation that the draft Direction was in an agreed reform, reflecting your discussions with Slough Children's Services Trust and that you are content to receive the final Direction (enclosed).

This is the third Direction given to Slough Borough Council and contains changes from the second Direction issued on 30 September 2015 requiring the Council to enter into a contract with Slough Children's Services Trust that set out the services to be delivered by the Trust on the Council's behalf. This third Direction removes from the list of statutory functions which were to have been discharged by the Trust from 1 October 2016 a number of functions including those relating to school attendance, children's centres and early years sufficiency and funding.

This revised Direction reflects a significant amount of work between the Council and Trust to ensure services are improving in order to protect the most vulnerable children and young people in Slough. I would like to

thank you and your colleagues for your determination to work closely with my Commissioner, Eleanor Brazil, and the leadership of the Trust.

My intention in revising this Direction is to allow the Trust to focus relentlessly on the critically important job of improving children's social care services in Slough. The additional capacity and capability that the Council is putting in place – which I will ask my Commissioner to monitor carefully – and also the effective relationships that have recently developed between Council and Trust officers I believe form a sound basis for the Council retaining responsibility for an important set of services that support the effective delivery of children's social care services in Slough.

My officials will continue to oversee the progress of the Government's intervention in Slough and will conduct a review in March 2017, the purpose of which will be to establish whether, for the benefit of vulnerable children, young people and families in Slough, there are services that should be transferred to the Trust.

As you are also aware, I have agreed to extend Eleanor Brazil's role as Commissioner for Children's Services in Slough. She will take an active role to support the Trust's ongoing improvement work as well as the Council's focus on effectively delivering those services it is responsible for, as set out in the third Direction. I am grateful to Eleanor for her expertise and leadership. I have no doubt that her continued presence in Slough will be hugely beneficial to the Trust and the Council.

I am copying this letter to Roger Parkin (SBC Interim Chief Executive), Eleanor Brazil (Commissioner for Children's Services in Slough), Elaine Simpson (Chair, Slough Children's Services Trust), Nicola Clemo (Chief Executive, Slough Children's Services Trust).

*Yours sincerely,
Edward*

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