



Edward Timpson MP

Minister of State for Children and Families

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Councillor Rob Anderson
Leader
Slough Borough Council
St Martin's Place
51 Bath Road
SL1 3UF

30 September 2015

Dear Rob,

DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 497A(4) and (4B) OF THE EDUCATION ACT 1996

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. The Direction (enclosed) takes account of the Council's comments on a draft Direction issued on 31 July and during ensuing discussions between the Council's and the DfE's officials.

The Direction requires Slough Borough Council to enter into and comply with the contract setting out the services agreement between the Council and Slough Children's Services Trust. The Direction requires that the contract be signed no later than 30 September 2015.

The issuing of this Direction and signing of the services delivery contract mark the conclusion of a significant programme of work to set up the Slough Children's Services Trust. I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your hard work in engaging with the Commissioner, Eleanor Brazil, the Trust, led by Elaine Simpson, and officials in the Department to achieve this. I do not underestimate the significant effort that has been involved.

The Slough Children's Services Trust is an independent, not-for-profit company, focused entirely on improving children's social care services in Slough. As such, it is at the forefront of new developments in how we safeguard and improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. I am confident that we have chosen the right model to drive the rapid improvement that is needed. We will, of course, continue to work closely with the Trust, over the coming months and years, as it takes forward this important undertaking.

As you are also aware, I have agreed to extend Eleanor Brazil's role as Commissioner, which will require her to take an active role in supporting the Trust's ongoing improvement. I am grateful to Eleanor for bringing all parties together over the past year, and I have no doubt that her continued presence in Slough will be hugely beneficial to the Trust as it begins to deliver services.

I am copying this letter to Ruth Bagley (SBC Chief Executive), Eleanor Brazil (Commissioner for Children's Social Care in Slough), and Elaine Simpson (Chair of the Slough Children's Services Trust).

Yours sincerely,
Edward

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