



Edward Timpson MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

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Cllr David Simmonds
Chairman of the Children and Young People Board,
Local Government Association

Mr Alan Wood
President,
Association of Director of Children Services

11 March 2015

Dear David and Alan,

COMMISSIONING WELFARE PLACEMENTS IN SECURE CHILDREN'S HOMES

In October 2014 the Department for Education commissioned Deloitte to conduct a review of the current and likely future need for places in Secure Children's Homes. The review gathered a range of evidence, including extensive consultation with, amongst others, managers of Secure Children's Homes, voluntary sector bodies, the Office of the Children's Commissioner, and commissioners from the local authority, health and justice sectors. I know that representatives of your respective organisations contributed to this review and I am grateful for your support for this work.

On the basis of the evidence gathered, the Government is persuaded that the commissioning of welfare placements in Secure Children's Homes would be improved by greater coordination at national level. I understand that this is a view shared in principle by the ADCS and LGA.

National does not necessarily mean central Government alone; there are many ways in which we collectively might seek to bring a national element to the commissioning process. I welcome the agreement of the ADCS and LGA to work with the Department to work to explore how national commissioning would work in practice, and to identify the next steps, working carefully with the various interested parties. We have agreed that this next phase of work should conclude by the summer.

The review has given us a sound basis for moving forward, but there is much still

to do. I am confident that by working together we will ensure that the system is the best that it can be.

Yours ever,

Edward

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