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Lead Commissioner Mary Ney

4th May 2018

The Rt Hon. James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing
Communities & Local Government
Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local
Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

The Rt Hon. Damian Hinds MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretaries of State,

This is the thirteenth quarterly report to you on the progress of the Government Intervention in Rotherham MBC. Can I first give my congratulations to James Brokenshire on his recent appointment as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and wish him well in this new role.

Since my last quarterly report on 7th February 2018, I submitted a further letter on 21st March 2018 setting out the outcome of the Independent Health Check and recommending that the Government Intervention in Rotherham MBC could now be concluded. This recommendation was supported by the report of the Independent Health Check which I attached and the evidence provided on the progress of the Intervention in earlier quarterly reports. The Commissioner Team remains of the view that the political and senior officer leadership of Rotherham MBC is able to function and continue its improvement without the need of Commissioner oversight. Given the new appointments at ministerial level with responsibility for decisions on this Intervention, I and my colleague Commissioners would welcome the opportunity to brief you in greater detail. This may be more helpful to you than providing a resume here on the history of the previous three years.

As I indicated in my letter, pending your consideration of our recommendation for the ending of the Intervention, the Commissioner Team will continue to exercise the requirements of the current Directions issued in September 2017 and in particular to supporting the Council on areas of challenge. We are giving some priority to the Council's ongoing task to deliver on its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and can report that the Council is working hard in this regard. The Council is cognisant of its responsibilities to meet the additional demands it is experiencing in both Children's Services and Adult Social Care within a robust MTFS and is giving this

due priority and attention at both Member and officer level. Whilst the financial context is challenging, the Council's leadership is grasping issues in the way you would expect from a competent administration whilst welcoming advice from Commissioners.

As previously and as part of our normal practice, we will publish this letter on the Council's website in the coming weeks. I look forward to discussing the Intervention further with you in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'M' and 'N'.

Mary Ney
Lead Commissioner