

DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 15(5) AND (6) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 AND SECTION 497A (4B) OF THE EDUCATION ACT 1996 TO ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 2018

1. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has carefully considered the following in respect of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (“the Authority”):
 - a. The Authority’s representations dated 3 August 2018;
 - b. A representation from a member of the public dated 24 July 2018;
 - c. A representation from a member of the public dated 16 August 2018;
 - d. A representation from a charity dated 8 August 2018;
 - e. Quarterly reports from the Lead Commissioner dated 3 August 2018, 4 May 2018, 21 March 2018, 7 February 2018 and 29 January 2018;
 - f. Independent Health Check assessment of 21 March 2018;
 - g. OFSTED’s single inspection of Children’s Services (published 29 January 2018).
2. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government is satisfied that the Authority is able to exercise the service areas and associated executive and non-executive functions specified in Annex B to the Directions issued on 12 September 2017.
3. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, having considered the representations made by the Authority as required by section 15(9) of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”), considers it necessary and expedient in accordance with his powers under section 15(5) and (6) of the 1999 Act, to direct the Authority as set out below in order to secure the Authority’s compliance with the requirements of Part I of the 1999 Act.
4. Pursuant to his powers under section 15(5) and (6) of the 1999 Act, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government directs that:
 - a. from the date of these Directions the service areas and associated executive and non-executive functions specified in Annex B to the Directions issued on 12 September 2017 are returned to the Authority to exercise.
 - b. the Authority to take the actions outlined in Annex A to these Directions.
 - c. the Directions issued on 12 September 2017 are revoked. This would end the Commissioners’ involvement in the governance of the Authority.
5. Insofar as the functions are children’s social care functions, they are also directed by the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to his powers under section 497A(4B) of the 1996 Act, as applied by section 50 of the Children Act 2004 to take the actions outlined in Annex A to these Directions. Otherwise, and including the functions which do not relate to children’s social care functions, the Secretary of State for Education endorses the Directions made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
6. These Directions shall remain in force until 31 March 2019 or such earlier date as the Secretary of State may decide.

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
and the Secretary of State for Education.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Powell".

Alex Powell
A Senior Civil Servant in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
18 September 2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne".

Suzanne Lunn
A Senior Civil Servant in the Department for Education
18 September 2018

ANNEX A

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITY

In this Annex, the following expressions have the following meaning:

“the Authority” includes the Leader, the Cabinet Members, or any committee or sub-committee and any other person who has responsibility for the matter in question;

“the Secretaries of State” means the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government; and the Secretary of State for Education.

The actions to be taken by the Authority are:

- i. To continue to demonstrate progress against the Best Value Duty.
- ii. To submit to the Secretaries of State, no later than 18 February 2019, an independent review of achievement against delivery in the following areas:
 - a. Political and managerial leadership and effective working between Members and Officers;
 - b. Organisational culture and governance;
 - c. Quality of partnership working;
 - d. Delivery against their strategic plans and priorities and review the latest performance data;
 - e. Delivery of the medium term financial strategy;
 - f. Progress on the OFSTED recommendations, including a practice strand to assess the service improvements in children’s social care services;
 - g. Progress on the issues raised in the representations that were received (see paragraphs 1b-1d).