



Department
for Education

**Regional Director for the West Midlands
Department for Education
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry CV1 2WT**

Email: RG.WM@education.gov.uk

Date: 26/05/2023

Councillor John Cotton – leader, Birmingham City Council
Andrew Christie – Chair, Birmingham Children’s Trust

Dear Cllr Cotton and Andrew

Birmingham Children’s Social Care

I am replying on behalf of the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing to the joint letter from Cllr Ward and Andrew of 9 May, and the subsequent letter from Cllr Cotton of 25 May.

As you know, the Minister has taken a close interest in the progress made in children’s services in Birmingham and was delighted at the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection – as am I. Can I add my thanks to those of the minister to all those responsible.

The letters very helpfully set out the council’s commitment to maintaining the approach that has delivered improved outcomes for the City’s children and young people, and the careful thought given to ensuring service stability and continuity in the future.

In light of this commitment and the progress the service has made, I am pleased to inform you that the Direction which was issued to the council on 22/07/2019 concerning children’s social care is revoked as of the date of this letter. The revocation of the direction ends the period of DfE intervention. Subsequently, the rights afforded to the Department for Education under the governance side agreement to Birmingham Children’s Trust’s articles of association will also fall away.

Members of my team will continue to stay close to Trust and the City Council. I would expect them to continue to attend the regular governance meetings for the service for a period to come, before we move fully to business as usual engagement.

This letter will be published on the Gov.uk website to confirm this decision. I am sure the team will share details once this has happened.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Warren

Regional Director, West Midlands