



Sam Gyimah MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Childcare and Education

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Councillor Michael Jones
Leader of the Council
Cheshire East Unitary Authority
Town Hall
Macclesfield
SK10 1EA

¹²
16 December 2015

Dear Michael

I am writing further to my letter of 1 October 2015. I have considered the Ofsted report, the report from the independent chair of the Improvement Board, Helen Denton, and advice from my officials.

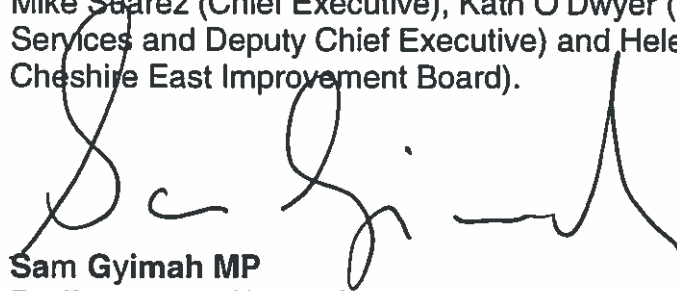
It is clear that Cheshire East Council has made progress in consolidating improvements since the previous inspection and clear that the service provided to children, young people and their families has significantly improved. However, some challenges and priorities remain which will require a continued sharp focus. I understand that these are captured in your revised improvement plan.

As a result of this improvement, the Improvement Notice which was issued to the council on 12 September 2013 is now lifted. However, Cheshire East Council will now enter a period of supervision and support until September 2016. This will enable me to be assured of the sustainability of the improvements which have taken place. Going forward this approach will be the norm for all councils leaving intervention following an Ofsted judgement of 'requires improvement'. Officials will contact you directly to discuss what this means in practice.

Finally, I would encourage you and your officers to continue to work

with neighbouring authorities – especially those who find themselves facing similar challenges – in order to share the lessons you have learned, and the good practice you have developed on your improvement journey.

Councillor Rachel Bailey (Children and Young People Portfolio), Mike Suarez (Chief Executive), Kath O'Dwyer (Director of Children's Services and Deputy Chief Executive) and Helen Denton (Chair of Cheshire East Improvement Board).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Gyimah', is written over the text of the previous block.

Sam Gyimah MP
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