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Your Ref:
Our Ref: SY/JEC
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Edward Timpson MP
Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
Westminster
LONDON
SW1P 3BT

By e-mail

Dear *Edward*

DfE INTERVENTION IN CUMBRIA

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2016 following the review held by your officers in Cumbria.

I am pleased that you have recognised that progress continues to be made following the last review undertaken in March 2016.

I concur with your view about the areas where progress is most evident; the front door, the area based structure, and the quality assurance framework. Equally I am aware of the areas of improvement that require further attention. The issue of consistency of practice across the county is related to sufficient and competent social workers and this will be a priority within the revised Improvement Plan which senior leaders are currently working on with your departmental Advisor to Cumbria.

I am also pleased that you have agreed to a reduction in the frequency of Improvement Board meetings, which should allow increased time to deliver the improvements outlined in the plan.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge your kind and appropriate words about the leadership of Diane Wood which are thoroughly deserved.

Yours sincerely



Stewart Young
Leader of Cumbria County Council