



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

Ros Jones  
The Mayor  
Doncaster MBC  
Civic Office  
Waterdale  
Doncaster

26th September 2013

Ms Ros,

Thank you for meeting me to discuss how we can work together to develop the best possible model to deliver children's services in Doncaster, through a Trust with clear autonomy. Having received your revised proposal, which the Chief Executive has submitted to my officials, I am reassured by your clear commitment to introducing a Trust with the level of independence identified in the LeGrand report as necessary to bring about rapid and sustained improvement.

I am now content to agree in principle to the establishment of the Doncaster Children's Trust, without the requirement to remove Doncaster's children's services functions entirely. The Trust should be established for a period of ten years, with a review after five years, as recommended in the LeGrand review.

I should once again emphasise my clear view, which I think you now share, that services should be delivered by a Trust genuinely independent of the Council and able to act autonomously in delivering the improvements needed. It should be clear to you that I of course retain the power to remove children's services functions from Doncaster in future if it proves necessary to secure swifter improvement.

Alan Wood, as Commissioner for Children's Social Care, will now agree a timetable and implementation plan with your officials. This should include a Memorandum of Understanding to set out in detail the structure, governance, independence and length of contract of the Trust. I would like to see this in place by 10<sup>th</sup> October, and I will ask Alan Wood to advise me regularly on progress.

My officials will also discuss the funding of implementation costs with you.

I am copying this letter to Alan Wood, Jo Miller, and Rob Sykes.

Yours,

**MICHAEL GOVE MP**