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*<Insert date>*

*<Insert DCS details>*

Dear

### **Ofsted thematic inspection – child sexual exploitation**

Ofsted is undertaking a short programme of thematic inspections to develop an understanding of the factors which facilitate or hinder good quality practice and effective protection of children and young people relating to issues of child sexual exploitation (CSE). The thematic inspection will encompass both inspection of the local authority services in relation to CSE (carried out under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Section 136) and a review of the statutory functions of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in relation to CSE (carried out under the Children Act 2004, Section 15A).

The thematic inspection will:

- (a) consider the effectiveness of the local authority's arrangements with partners in both the strategic and operational identification and management of CSE in the area
- (b) establish whether children and young people are being effectively safeguarded in local authority areas through robust multi-agency arrangements, that are effective in preventing child sexual exploitation, protecting those who are at risk of, and supporting those who are victims of child sexual exploitation and that are proactive in taking action against those involved in child sexual exploitation
- (c) consider the local authority's arrangements for identifying the prevalence, trends and patterns, and evaluating the effectiveness of its approach and response to CSE.

We plan to visit eight local authorities/LSCBs across the country during September and October 2014. These thematic inspections are being carried out with limited notice given the current serious concerns about CSE nationally. Your local authority area and LSCB has been chosen to be part of this thematic inspection programme and the dates that we plan to visit your authority area are *<insert date>*.

The findings of the thematic inspection will also be informed by the outcome of up to five full, or interim inspections of children's homes in the local authority area that have been timed to coincide with the thematic inspection. These inspections are being conducted under the Care Standards Act 2000 and are separate to the thematic inspections. However, any findings emerging from those inspections that relate to CSE will be fed into the survey and included in the final report on the thematic inspection.

We will not report findings in the thematic inspection on an individual local authority/LSCB basis or make judgements regarding the quality of work in individual authorities. Instead, we will be identifying common themes and highlighting good practice and possible areas of development across the range of services in the eight local authorities and LSCBs that are included in the CSE thematic inspection programme, reporting separately. We will, however, give you informal verbal feedback on our findings in relation to your local authority and LSCB at the end of our visit.

The thematic inspection will contribute to the growing body of knowledge on this subject and we hope and expect that local authorities and LSCBs who participate will find the process useful in their work with children and young people. The final report is due to be published in late November 2014.

The approach to this thematic inspection and key questions that we will be asking in order to help us to gather the information and evidence are attached to this letter as Appendix A.

I would be grateful if you could identify an appropriate link person within the local authority for this thematic inspection and let me have their details as soon as possible. I will then contact the link person to discuss the inspection arrangements in more detail.

The thematic inspection team that will visit *<insert local authority name>* is *<insert x3 inspectors' names>* who are all social care Her Majesty's Inspectors. All Ofsted inspectors undergo regular enhanced DBS checks and therefore you do not need to ask individuals for proof of this. All Ofsted inspectors carry photo identification which you will wish to check, on their arrival, in accordance with your own security procedures.

I look forward to working with you and hearing from you later today.

Yours sincerely

*<Insert Name of Survey Lead>*  
Her Majesty's Inspector