



**Edward Timpson MP**

Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families

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Mayor John Biggs  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London  
E14 2BG

7 April 2017

Dear John,

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS: OFSTED INSPECTION  
OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES, REPORT PUBLISHED 7  
APRIL 2017**

I am writing following Ofsted's publication of its report into the inspection of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and the review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding board. Ofsted has judged services overall to be 'inadequate'.

I am very concerned to read about the widespread and serious failures in the services provided in Tower Hamlets, which are leaving too many children in harmful or potentially harmful situations. This represents a significant decline in performance since your last Ofsted inspection in 2012. I have asked my officials to work closely with your authority as part of a co-ordinated intervention to support rapid improvement across children's services delivery.

I have also asked my officials to procure an intervention adviser who will report to the Secretary of State and provide monitoring, support and challenge to the council as it implements corrective measures to improve service delivery. They will be in touch with you to set out how that will be done. I understand that you are setting up a new improvement board with the senior level representation from the council and its partners needed to drive improvement. I will expect quarterly reports on progress from the chair of the improvement board.

In the meantime, I expect the council to take swift and decisive action to address the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted. If I am not satisfied that you are making suitable progress then I will need to

consider whether sustainable improvement can be best achieved by removing service control from the council.

I am attaching a draft Direction which requires you to work with the intervention adviser. If you have any formal representations to make on the content of the Direction, please submit those in writing to Sean.Hilditch@education.gov.uk by 21 April 2017.

My officials will be in touch with you to agree the date to publish the Direction, and to discuss arrangements to announce the name of the intervention adviser.

I am copying this letter to Will Tuckley and Debbie Jones.

*Yours sincerely,  
Edward*

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