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By email: chris.spencer@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Yvette Stanley
National Director, Regulation and Social Care

Mr Chris Spencer
Director of Children's Services
Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall
Westgate Street
Gloucester GL1 2TR

Dear Chris

Inspection of Gloucestershire local authority children's services

I am writing to personally congratulate you on the outcome of your recent ILACS inspection, which saw Gloucestershire move out of the inadequate rating to an overall effectiveness of requires improvement.

This is a significant and hard-won achievement and one which I wanted to acknowledge today. This outcome is testament to the leadership team's hard work and tenacity over time, as well as that of managers and frontline staff, the wider council and your safeguarding partners. It was particularly pleasing to read that, despite the challenges of the pandemic, *"The local authority has strengthened its quality and performance management arrangements, providing senior leaders with a good understanding of the quality and impact of practice. The Director of children's services has ensured that staff have been provided with a clear model of practice and of what is expected of them. Therefore, the majority of children now benefit from more timely effective interventions."*

Having watched your progress to date I am sure you will be already concentrating on the next stages of your improvement journey, consolidating and accelerating the progress already made. Please pass on my congratulations to all Gloucestershire colleagues who have contributed to this achievement, as well as extending my thanks to all the staff, children, foster carers and wider stakeholders who participated in the inspection process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvette Stanley".

Yvette Stanley
National Director Regulation and Social Care