

**DRAFT LETTER**

Our Ref: 530/SSI/3/8/45

24 August 1995

Mr Stuart Brook  
Director  
Nottinghamshire Social Services  
County Hall  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

Dear Mr Brook

I am writing to confirm the current position regarding SSI's monitoring arrangements in respect of the implementation of the recommendations from 'Strong Enough to Care'. As you know it was never intended that the monitoring would be permanent. It was extended at the beginning of this year because although progress has been made on a number of fronts, two worrying features were outstanding

1. The slow progress in establishing a peripatetic team.
2. The continuation of unallocated cases.

Both these features had affected the capacity of the SSD to deliver the action plan rapidly and had tested the ability of management to bring about the necessary cultural changes within the whole staff group.

Herbert Laming, Chief Inspector has recently visited your authority and I understand from him that further progress has been made. In particular, all child protection cases except for two have been allocated. In addition much work has been undertaken by all staff to improve service delivery across the county. Your own commitment and work towards changing staff attitudes through your programme of meeting staff at all levels in the Department has brought about changes and enabled improvements to be made to management and practice.

I do not think that continued monitoring at this stage can make any further contribution to your own systems for securing standards of good practice and delivery of satisfactory services. The current monitoring arrangements will therefore cease.

As you know, in November Nottinghamshire's Child Protection Services are due to be inspected by SSI's Inspection Division. Ministers will review the position following the inspection and determine the need for any further action. Meanwhile, Central Regional Office remains available to you for any advice and support that you require. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Phil Green at this office.

Yours sincerely

ANDREA HICKMAN  
Inspector  
Social Care Group  
Central England Region

Direct Line: