

Social Services Inspectorate
Department of Health

DPA
15/4/96



Our Ref: **DPA**

15 April 1996

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

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15 APR 1996

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Dear Mr Brook

Following the publication of the Social Services Inspectorate report on Nottinghamshire Child Protection Services, it is now appropriate to write to you to confirm the completion of monitoring by Central Region SSI.

In the Department of Health press statement, Mr Bowis commented that the substantial improvements in Nottinghamshire's Child Protection Services identified in the report were very welcome. It now seems a long way back since the events leading up to the Chief Executive's review 'Strong Enough to Care'. I am sure you will agree that much has been learned by us all along the way, but most importantly real improvements have been secured with the implementation of the 88 recommendations from that review. A firm base now exists from which the department can move forward to address the challenges of a comprehensive child care service for the future.

I am pleased to be able to confirm that by 'drawing a line' under the monitoring exercise, SSI is signalling its confidence that Nottinghamshire will continue to consolidate the improvements made by all agencies working together to protect children. It also places the county back into more usual working arrangements with SSI. Through our networks and liaison meetings we will continue to offer you and your staff advice and support. We also look forward to you continuing to share with SSI any new initiatives you take or examples of innovative good practice.

Yours sincerely

Simon Allard
Assistant Chief Inspector
Social Care Group
Central England Region

Direct Line: **DPA**

c.c. Mr P Housden, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire