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Yvette Stanley
National Director Social Care

Steve Crocker
Director of Children's Services
Children's Services Department
Hampshire County Council
3rd Floor, Elizabeth II Court North
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Hampshire SO23 8UG

Via email: steve.crocker@hants.gov.uk

Dear Steve

Inspection of local authority children's services

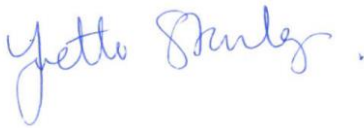
I am writing to personally congratulate you on the outcome of your ILACS inspection which rated children's services as outstanding overall. This is a magnificent achievement and one which I wanted to acknowledge today as your report is published.

Your "outstanding" inspection outcome reflects the hard work and tenacity, of yourself as the DCS, of your leadership team, managers and frontline staff, as well as the wider council and your safeguarding partners. You should all be proud of the positive difference you have made for the children and families of Hampshire. It was lovely to read that *"...the director and his leadership team have resolutely focused on continuing to improve the help, care and protection provided to children. Social workers are highly skilled at building meaningful relationships with children, engaging them in their assessments and plans. Children in care benefit from high-quality support, which is making a real difference to their outcomes. Management oversight of practice is clear and considered, ensuring that children's plans progress at pace. Children's lives consistently improve as a result of the help they receive."* You should all be very proud of the continued improvement since your previous inspection where services were good.

Please pass on my congratulations to all the Hampshire colleagues who have contributed to this achievement, as well as extending my personal thanks to all the staff, children, foster carers and wider stakeholders who participated in the inspection process.

I know that this outcome will not diminish your ambition for or culture of embracing improvement in services and outcomes for children, and I extend my very best wishes for the next phases of your continuous improvement journey.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvette Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Yvette Stanley
National Director Social Care