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Annex B

Children's Social Care Commissioner's Terms of Reference

1. The Children's Social Care Commissioner's role will be to:
 - a. examine the nature and scale of the problems in respect of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's ('the Council') exercise of their children's social care functions which led to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's letter to the Secretary of State of 30 September 2014, taking into account feedback from the full inspection undertaken by Ofsted;
 - b. ensure the Council takes the immediate steps necessary to stabilise and secure the Council's performance of their children's social care functions;
 - c. ensure that the Council's response to the issues raised by the Commissioner and by Ofsted is of the required standard and proportionate to the scale of the problem(s) and enables the Council as quickly as possible to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area; and
 - d. to review the Council's leadership capability and capacity to drive forward the changes required in order for the Council to provide effective leadership in relation to their children's social care functions.
2. The Commissioner should report to the Secretary of State on his findings, and on the Council's progress with improvement, one month after appointment and three months after appointment.
3. The Commissioner may, at any time, require action of the Council to secure improvement and may recommend further action to the Secretary of State.
4. The appointment will last for three months in the first instance. What happens thereafter will be dependent on the Commissioner's findings, the published Ofsted report into the Council's services for children in need of help and protection and children looked after services and Louise Casey's Review under Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1999.
5. The Commissioner should ensure his work benefits from a full understanding of how Louise Casey's Review is proceeding. He should also agree how his work will need to interact with any police investigation into historic criminal acts related to child sexual exploitation that may be undertaken following the publication of the Jay enquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham between 1997 and 2013.
6. It is anticipated that the Commissioner will spend an average of two days a week working on these issues, subject to any further agreement between the Commissioner and the Secretary of State.