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Our Ref: IW/1626lh

5 September 2022

John Coughlan CBE
John Coughlan Associates

Dear John,

Reference: First Report to the Secretary of State for Education by John Coughlan CBE, Commissioner for SEND Services in Birmingham, February 2022

Thank you for the report provided in relation to the structural make-up of the delivery model for SEND services in Birmingham. We welcome the fact that you are not suggesting any changes need to be made at this time.

Please accept this letter as formal confirmation that Birmingham City Council's leadership (political and all levels of officer) unequivocally accepts and supports the recommendations that have been made. We are absolutely committed to delivering positive change and will follow all the recommendations in the report.

We will continue to recognise and work in partnership with the ongoing roles of the Improvement Board, the retained Statutory Direction and the Commissioner.

A great deal of work has already happened. We will report back against the revised Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) and a summary of the local plan to address all of your recommendations is attached as an appendix to this letter.

Some of the recommendations are addressed outside of the APP. Council officers will report against these through regular meetings with you and, where appropriate, through the SEND Improvement Board.


We would also like to put on record our thanks to the DfE for their support (via the Commissioner) in helping the Council begin the journey of improving SEND services for the children of this City, which is an ambition that we all share.

Signed

For and on behalf of Birmingham City Council



**Deborah
Cadman (OBE)**
Chief Executive
of Birmingham
City Council



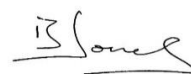
Sue Harrison
Director of
Children and
Families



**Councillor Karen
McCarthy**
Cabinet Member
for Children,
Young People and
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**Councillor
Ian Ward**
Leader of
Birmingham
City Council



**Councillor
Brigid Jones**
Deputy Leader
of Birmingham
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