



Julie Ogley
Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
Central Bedfordshire
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

29 March 2012

Dear Julie,

I am writing on behalf of the Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care Board in order to confirm the outcome following your presentation to the Board on 23 March 2012. This outlined the progress Central Bedfordshire has made since the judgment by the Care Quality Commission in November 2010 that Central Bedfordshire was 'adequate'.

The Board was impressed by the rigour of the Recovery and Improvement project plan, with a Board chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council and strong member leadership provided by the Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health with the support of the Member's Reference Group. This was clearly set out in the Position Statement and the presentation you made to the Towards Excellence Board.

Independent challenge was provided by the Peer Review of Safeguarding in June 2011 and the subsequent challenge to the overall recovery and improvement of the Council's adult social care by Mick Connell, the Director of Adults and Communities in Leicestershire, whose report was also considered by the Board. It is clear that the Council has made sustainable improvements over the last three years, and the Board fully endorse the assessment which has been made.

Throughout the process you have shown strong and determined leadership and have been instrumental in delivering the improvements which will benefit people who need care and support in Central Bedfordshire. The improvements are embedded in the work of the council and its partners, and will be sustained in the three year plan set out in the position paper. I would be grateful if you would pass on the Board's recognition of this to your management team and staff. The Board also noted the contribution they are making in terms of utilising their own experiences to support other councils locally and nationally in their improvement journey.

Yours sincerely

Richard Jones
Chair, Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care Programme Board