



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Stephen Kinnock MP
Minister of State for Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

Matt Jukes, Tracy Meyerhoff, Cllr Linda Chambers
Hull City Council
[By email]

8th December 2025

Dear Matt, Tracy and Linda,

Hull City Council – s.50 Notification

As you will be aware, I have been notified by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) of their conclusion that Hull City Council has failed in the delivery of some of their Care Act duties; and of CQC's conclusion that overall delivery "Requires Improvement."

Whilst I am concerned at the CQC's findings, I recognise the actions you have taken to address the identified failings and your plans to make improvements in the areas of concern. I also note the areas of strength and good practice that have been identified in the CQC's report.

I have carefully considered the findings and recommendations of the independent assessment provided by the CQC and information provided to me by my officials following their discussions with you and colleagues at the council. I do not consider it appropriate to make use of the intervention powers afforded to me by the Health and Care Act 2022. However, given that there are failings in some of the council's Care Act duties, I consider it necessary that I have additional line of sight and assurance of the improvement work connected to the s.50 notification.

To that end, it is my intention to appoint an Improvement Advisor to support the council to develop a robust, accountable and sustainable improvement plan with timely and effective measures of success. I understand my officials have discussed with your team in some detail how this can work most effectively. As such I trust that you will accept my offer of support and work collaboratively with the Improvement Advisor.

I encourage you also to use every opportunity to be as transparent as you can at a local level in your improvement planning, using local Scrutiny Boards and Full Council appropriately, including publishing the improvement plans, CQC report and this letter as part of publicly available papers.

As you will be aware my department also funds a national improvement offer to help local authorities improve their delivery of statutory duties. I encourage you to work with the DHSC Improvement Advisor to draw on this support wherever relevant.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognise CQC's findings that local authority staff were proud to work in Hull and felt supported in their roles and able to progress their careers. I was also encouraged to read that care provision in Hull was good, and that safeguarding processes ensured people's ongoing safety. I recognise the hard work of many of the staff at your Authority, including yourself, as the Council is taking the necessary steps to improve the delivery of its adult social care duties.

I look forward to hearing positive news on your progress in the forthcoming months.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Kinnock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEPHEN KINNOCK

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE