



Department of Health & Social Care

From Stephen Kinnock MP
Minister of State for Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Ian Floyd, Sara Storey, Cllr Lucy Steels-Walshaw
York City Council
[By email]

8th December 2025

Dear Ian, Sara and Lucy,

York City Council – s.50 Notification

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

I understand my officials have spoken to the CQC and your officials in the council to understand the issues outlined by CQC in more detail. I have noted that no concerns about the safety of individuals or communities in York were raised by CQC and that no-one in York with Care Act eligible needs has been found to be at risk of harm. Thank you for helping to confirm that.

I also welcome your team's willingness to have open and transparent conversations about the need for improvement. I am also encouraged to hear that you are working with our funded improvement partners 'Partners in Care and Health' to make impactful change and address the concerns in the CQC 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 at this stage.

However, I note that CQC's report places York only slightly above the lower threshold for "Requires Improvement", and describes serious and widespread failings, I therefore 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 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.

It is my intention to ask the Improvement Advisor for formal advice after six months as to whether he considers the actions taken in York by that point are sufficiently robust and are on track to deliver the necessary improvements. If at that point I do not consider that progress is sufficient, I will explore other means of escalation, and I may reconsider the use of the statutory intervention powers.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to 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 discharge 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".

STEPHEN KINNOCK

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE