



6th Floor  
Ladywood House  
Stephenson Street  
Birmingham  
B2 4DH

Tel: 0121 606 4360  
Fax: 0121 606 4388  
Minicom Number: 0207 972 2015

Our Reference No: 530/SSI/WMD/3/8/204  
Your Reference No:

2 September, 2003

Mr N M Pringle  
Chief Executive  
Brockington  
35 Hafod Road  
Hereford  
HR1 1SH

Dear Mr Pringle

**AUDIT OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN NEED IN RESPONSE TO THE  
PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VICTORIA CLIMBIE INQUIRY**

Thank you for submitting the self-audit of services to children in need as required from all councils following the Victoria Climbié Inquiry.

Your Council's business link inspector has now evaluated this. The completed evaluation template is attached. You will see that the overall evaluation has concluded that Herefordshire is serving most children well, and its capacity for improvement is promising.

These judgements will be taken into account in the star rating process, later this year. Given the importance of work in this area it has been agreed that the evaluation of the audit will form a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the overall performance assessment of councils. Any Councils judged through this evaluation process as not serving children well or only serving some children well can not be judged as serving most or all children well in the overall assessment of children's services.

You may wish to comment on the evaluation and/or discuss it with your business link inspector. Aspects of the audit and evaluation are likely to be discussed at the annual review meeting and will contribute to the improvement agenda for your council.

The evaluation of your audit should be published as a document of public access and should be presented to the appropriate committee of the council with responsibility for social services.

If you have any queries about the evaluation please contact your business link inspector,  
Graham Woods at this office.

Yours sincerely

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

**John Cypher**  
**Director**  
**SSI West Midlands**

☎ 0121-606-4361

E-Mail Address: [john.cypher@doh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.cypher@doh.gsi.gov.uk)

Copy: Ms Sue Fiennes  
Director of Housing & Social Care