

Louise Casey CB
Director-General, Troubled Families Team
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Tel 030-3444-1131
families.team@communities.gsi.gov.uk

To all Local Authority Chief Executives

17 November 2011

Dear colleague,

TURNING AROUND THE LIVES OF 120,000 TROUBLED FAMILIES

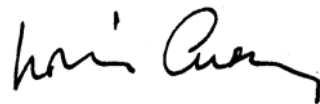
I wanted to write to you directly as soon as possible after the Prime Minister's announcement of my appointment as head of the Government's programme on troubled families. Working for the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles, I am tasked with what is undoubtedly a hugely challenging ambition; and one for which I will need your support.

Working successfully to achieve the target that the Prime Minister has set – to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families by the end of this Parliament – has benefits for both national and local government, given the substantial set of needs that these families have and the drain upon resources that they currently present. It will need strong leadership at both a national and local level, combined with a strong commitment to the pro-active investment of resources in interventions evidenced to produce positive outcomes, in terms of education, employment, behaviour, health and wellbeing and reduced costs.

Although I only took up post as Director-General within DCLG on 1st November, I had before that been conducting a review on this area, so I am well aware that there is already much good work underway and practices that we can learn from. I am determined to ensure that we maintain and wherever possible build upon the momentum already gained on this challenge. For example, the valuable work on Community Budgets, and the interest and leadership shown by the Local Government Group give me heart as I start work in my new role. Any new arrangements that will be put in place by central government should not curtail or delay work in which you may currently be engaged in with relevant partner

agencies, and I would encourage you to continue with any action you have underway.

Once we have further information on how we intend to proceed we will be in touch. I hope you agree that the challenge we are set is a worthwhile one. I know that for a long time many of us in public services have been conscious that there is a cohort of families with problems that are being passed on through the generations; that these families have members who are often vulnerable and in crisis; that they often cause problems to others around them, and that, despite huge efforts put in by so many, they absorb public services without their problems ever being fully dealt with. I hope that I can count on your help and support as we work together to try and bring a new approach to this – and seek to stop the cycle once and for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

LOUISE CASEY