



Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State

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Coroner ME Hassell
Senior Coroner, Inner North London
St Pancras Coroner's Court
Camley St
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N1C 4PP

19th June 2017

Dear Ms Hassell,

My predecessor, Edward Timpson, received your Prevention of Future Death report, regarding the tragic death of Chadrack Mbala Mulo, on 20 April 2017. This is a heart-breaking case and my thoughts are with all those who knew Chadrack and his mother.

I would like to stress that the Department takes the issues raised in the report very seriously and will take action in light of your recommendations.

The school only held a single number for Chadrack's mother and no contact number for any other family member or friend. I have asked Departmental officials to examine how we can best update the statutory 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance and the 'School Attendance' guidance so that they reflect best practice and recommend that schools hold more than one contact number.

You make an important distinction in your report between attendance issues and welfare issues and underline that school staff should be considering welfare when managing attendance. In this area too, the Department will examine how best we can update attendance and safeguarding guidance to make this link clearer.

I would anticipate that guidance will continue to make clear that professional judgement should be used in deciding when child safety or welfare concerns should be escalated to children's social care services and/or the police. I have also asked the Department to identify the best way to reinforce this point further in the attendance and safeguarding guidance.

I will ensure that changes to strengthen the guidance will be made at the earliest opportunity, subject to formal consultation on the safeguarding guidance. I have asked Departmental officials to forward your report to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills for her consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Goodwill MP
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