Steve O’Connell AM  
Chairman of Police and Crime Committee  
City Hall  
The Queen’s Walk  
London, SE1 2AA

19 October 2016  
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Dear Steve

Police and Crime Committee – 22 September 2016

Thank you for your letter of the 3 October about the London Assembly’s Police and Crime Committee on the 22 September 2016

At that meeting, I committed to provide Assembly Members with

1. MOPAC’s findings following the expected publication in October 2016 of the Sexual Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation Needs Assessments; and
2. Details of the specialist organisations which are informing the development of the Child House model in London in liaison with NHS England.

Sexual Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation Needs Assessments

The two needs assessments have provided a significant opportunity for MOPAC to work with regional, local and voluntary and community sector partners to determine how we can collectively ensure that the needs of survivors and victims are better met through commissioned and statutory service provision. The findings have also coincided with the development work begun for the new Police and Crime Plan. I will use the opportunity provided by the Police and Crime Plan to outline how we will work with partners to improve the survivor/victim experience.

On the 4 October, I facilitated an initial roundtable meeting with regional and local statutory partners to discuss the key findings from the two needs assessments. At this meeting, we began to consider how we can work together to better meet the demands and needs in the Capital.

On the 20 October, the Violence Against Women and Girls team will be meeting with existing delivery partners to share key findings and advise them of next steps. Once this meeting has taken place, we will make plans to make the needs assessment available on the MOPAC website. It is essential that we have the opportunity to advise existing providers of next steps before we share the findings and ways forward more widely.
Child House

The Child House Programme is being delivered jointly between MOPAC and NHS England (London). There are a significant number of statutory and non-statutory agencies involved in helping to develop our plans to deliver the two London Child Houses.

There is a dedicated Programme Board to oversee this work which includes representation from a range of Criminal Justice System partners, in particular the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). In addition the Home Office chair a national Cross-Government Advisory Group which looks at the national policy changes required to deliver Child Houses. This includes representation from the Department for Education, Department of Health, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for Communities and Local Government, the Office of the Children’s Commissioner, national leads from the CPS and HMCTS, and also Durham Constabulary, who are developing a proof of concept for a Child House.

Finally we have commenced engagement with the ‘big five’ Children’s charities (Barnardo’s, the Children’s Society, National Children’s Homes, NSPCC and Save the Children). The MOPAC and NHS England (London) strategic leads will be meeting with representatives shortly.

Upon confirmation of the sites of the two Child Houses and the appointment of service providers additional local representation will be engaged to help deliver the programme in advance of services going live.

I hope that this response addresses the Committee’s questions. Thank you once again for writing to me about these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime