

# MOPAC

**MAYOR OF LONDON**  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

**Unmesh Desai AM**  
Chair, Police and Crime Committee  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA

18 June 2019

MOPAC12062019-D2738

Dear Unmesh,

## **Police and Crime Committee – 14 May 2019**

Thank you for your letter following my appearance at your committee on 14 May. I committed to writing to you with some additional information.

### **Appropriate Adults**

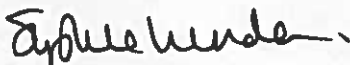
You asked for an update on the provision of appropriate adults (AA) for children and vulnerable adults in custody. While we discussed this issue at the most recent PCC, I have set out the current situation below.

The Police are required by law to contact and have present an AA when dealing with a suspect who is a child or is an adult with mental ill health or other mental vulnerability. MOPAC has no statutory functions in respect of the provision of Appropriate Adults (AAs) for either children or adults. Instead, responsibility for the former rests with local authorities and, somewhat problematically, no particular agency has a specific duty to provide services for vulnerable adults.

Despite this, we have been working to improve the situation and a partnership protocol for the provision of AAs has been developed that brings together the MPS, NHS England and the London Safeguarding Boards. This approach preceded, but is in line with, the national Partnership Agreement. Around two thirds of local authorities have indicated their support for the partnership agreement. We will be working with those of them which are likely to procure using the tri-partite scheme. This will bring tangible improvements to the arrangements and provision of AA support for both children and vulnerable adults. Of course, some the authorities that have indicated their support for this approach have existing contracts in place that mean there will be a longer lead in time before they could recommission a new service.

Once again, thank you for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,



**Sophie Linden**  
**Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**

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