



02/02/2023

All Party Parliamentary Group on Adoption and Permanence
Press Release

Government plans for Children's Social Care puts family relationships at the heart of reforms but immediate funding falls short

The government has today (Thursday, 2nd February) published its Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy with promises to transform the current care system to focus on more early support for families, support for kinship carers and an uplift in the foster carers allowance and care leavers allowance. The Department for Education (DfE) has promised up to 12 local areas will get over £45m to 'test a new approach to Family Help to provide increased, evidence-based support for families to overcome issues to prevent problems from escalating'.

Responding, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Adoption and Permanence, Rachael Maskell MP said: "The government's response today is a welcome acknowledgement that children who grow up in secure, stable and loving homes experience better outcomes and the plans show a genuine willingness for reform. However, it cannot be right that family help is only allocated to a handful of local areas until more money can be allocated in two years' time. The outcomes of vulnerable children should not be subject to such a postcode lottery. The funding allocated this spending round falls woefully short of what was asked for in the Review – just 7.7%. We must do more – and with more urgency – if we are to help our most vulnerable children to thrive".

Ms Maskell continued: "The majority of adopted children have spent time in care before moving to their adoptive family, and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Adoption and Permanence's 'Strengthening Families' Inquiry in 2021, which fed into the Care Review, found that greater support is needed across the adoption system to provide the stability adopted children need, given the early trauma, neglect and abuse many will have experienced. Whilst the plans focus on children and young people currently in care or at risk of being moved into care, we must remember that all care experience requires lifelong support".

The implementation plan, titled 'Stable Homes, Built on Love' is published alongside several consultations including one on the proposed Children's Social Care National Framework and Dashboard which promises to set out clear outcomes that should be achieved across all local authorities to improve the lives of children and families.

The APPG will examine and respond to all proposals which impact adoption and other forms of permanence.

ENDS

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APPG on Adoption and Permanence 'Strengthening Families' report: [APPGAP launches new 'Strengthening Families' report — appgap](#)