Draft email for members to complete and send to their MP with the campaign report and director’s email to the children’s minister

Dear ,

I am one of your constituents (address) and am forwarding the email which has been sent to Vicky Ford MP by an organisation supporting fostering families in the UK.

Many of (area) constituents are foster carers and are facing insecurity during this pandemic, and we have not had our own voice until now. Many ‘speak for us’ but they are not foster carers.

The much anticipated "Care Review" is due to begin shortly. In the meantime, FosterSupport have prepared a report offering targeted and achievable solutions, which are based on their vast experience of supporting fostering families around the UK. Their solutions do not require a new Act of Parliament or sweeping changes but offer real tangible improvements in foster carer retention and the lived experience of the child.

I would be so grateful if you could raise this with the Children's Minister and lend your support to our campaign.

With many thanks and kindest regards

**Send this email with above email**

Email to the Children’s Minister from Jane Collins Director FosterSupport

Dear Ms Ford,

I am writing to thank you for your support for foster carers and the children in their care over the past year.

You may recall that we had a telephone conference call on 5/5/20, as a director of The IFCAlliance, and I was extremely impressed with how you took on board our feedback and incorporated it into amended guidance. This helped considerably to protect foster carers and foster placements. I have since undertaken a change in business organisation with a remodeling exercise. The emphasis is very much focused on offering an enhanced and specialist level of support for foster carers and their foster families, as evidenced in the name. As we have been very busy supporting our carers throughout the pandemic, we have a ‘boots on the ground’ perspective and are well positioned to offer you a real insight into the lived experience of foster carers.

https://fostersupport.co.uk/

As the pandemic crisis continues my prediction of resignations and deregistrations stated in Society Guardian on 25/3/20 are very much coming to fruition.

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/25/coronavirus-puts-vulnerable-uk-children-greater-risk-campaigners-warn

I have recently supported a number of new carers recruited this year who have already resigned, in addition to many highly skilled and experienced carers who have left fostering forever. Through my work as a foster carer of children with complex needs, and through supporting my fellow carers over the years, I have formed an advantageous insight of where working relationships break down. But more importantly, using my legal training from Leeds Law School (LLB), I have researched how things can be rectified.

Our campaign report, which is attached, includes input from NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service) and data provided by NAPF, together with lived experience of fostering families.

Our proposal is much simpler than some of the "worker status/licensing body" proposals which require new Acts of Parliament. We are seeking "belts and braces" amendments to National Minimum Standards for Fostering, which can be undertaken by the appropriate minister as they see fit ;

Care Standards Act 2000 S23

(2) The appropriate Minister shall keep the standards set out in the standards under review and may publish amended statements whenever he considers it appropriate to do so.

Our proposals can address many of the issues which we deal with on a daily basis and provide real tangible improvements in foster carer retention rates, which will in turn greatly reduce the current sufficiency crisis and provide substantial financial savings.

As the Children's Minister, it is clear to see that the future of your most vulnerable children is at the heart of everything you do.

I would welcome to opportunity to discuss this further with you