



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email dated 9 June, to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, about funding for children's services.

Keeping vulnerable children and their families safe is a top priority for the Government. I recognise the important contributions made by our fantastic children's charities to achieve this and am grateful for the insights contained in the report you mention. Therefore, we have given councils an unprecedented package of support during the Covid-19 outbreak, including £3.2 billion emergency funding, to tackle the immediate pressures they have told us they're facing, including in children's services. This will be on top of English councils' Core Spending Power rising by over £2.9 billion this financial year, including a new £1 billion Social Care Grant for adults and children's services. The additional funding is un-ringfenced, recognising local authorities are best placed to decide how to meet service pressures, including on children's services.

Our Troubled Families Programme also remains at the heart of our ambition to helping all vulnerable children and their families. The Programme, which is delivered by local authorities and their partners, is driving public services to work together to provide vulnerable families with the intensive, integrated support they need – from the early years and throughout their lives. An additional £165 million was recently made available for the Troubled Families Programme to be extended in 2020-21, as part of the one-year spending round. This means that the Programme is now backed by up to £1.085 billion of Government funding. This will ensure that more families get access to the vital early support they need to overcome complex problems such as anti-social behaviour, mental health issues and domestic abuse.

Children's services are a key area of focus for the Government and we will continue to work with local authorities as the pandemic progress and for the upcoming Spending Review to ensure that long-term funding decisions are made in the interests of keeping vulnerable children and their families safe.

Yours ever,

**SIMON CLARKE MP**