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The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education

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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

23 November 2022

Dear Sir George,

Thank you so much for your email of 19 October, addressed to the Department of Health and Social Care, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, about the charity Kinship's, "Value Our Love" campaign. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I appreciate the concerns has raised.

I recognise the valuable and important role that kinship carers play. I have learned from speaking to kinship carers that often they take on this role at a time in their lives when they were least expecting to raise a family. My department will continue to support kinship families through our £2 million contract with the charity Kinship to deliver high-quality peer support groups for kinship carers across the country. As well as through the addition to other government reforms such as the extension of the Adoption Support Fund, to allow some kinship families access to therapeutic services, and the extension of access to the Fair Access Protocol for some children in kinship care.

The 2019 manifesto committed to review the children's social care system and I am grateful to Josh MacAlister for the recent publication of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, and the sector for all of their contributions. This includes recommendations on how we can further support children and kinship families.

However, I recognise there is more to do, and my officials are working up an ambitious and comprehensive implementation strategy in response to recommendations suggested by the recent independent review of children's social care.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education