



Janet Daby MP
Minister for Children and Families

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Helen Hayes MP
Chair, Education Select Committee
By email: helen.hayes.mp@parliament.uk

9 July 2025

Dear Helen

I wish to thank you and your committee for sharing the inquiry report on Children's Social Care. I found the inquiry informative – I particularly appreciated the thoughtful questions from members during my own evidence session. We look forward to responding to the Committee's report in due course.

The Committee's report mentions the importance of developing and maintaining high-quality residential care for children who need it. I am pleased to confirm that tomorrow I will be announcing £53 million which will go towards creating up to 200 local authority-run placements for children who have been or are at risk of being deprived of their liberty. Due to a shortage of appropriate placements, local authorities are often using unregistered settings, which are unsuitable for meeting their needs and costly.

The new children's homes will break down barriers to opportunity by providing support for these vulnerable young people. They will offer them support with managing their complex behaviour, and support their mental health and wellbeing needs, in a safe and stable environment.

We are also publishing the first implementation and process evaluation of the Families First for Children Pathfinder programme. The Pathfinder programme consists of 10 local areas that the department has worked closely with to test whole-system reform to children's social care with a focus on rebalancing the system away from crisis intervention and towards earlier help. This government confirmed at the end of last year that these reforms will be rolled out nationally through the Families First Partnership programme. From April this year, over £500m has been made available to local authorities to support rollout, nearly doubling investment in prevention. At the Spending Review we confirmed that this funding will continue in each year up to 2028-29 and increase by at least £300m over the next two years (2026-27 and 2027-28).

The evaluation report includes some positive early findings for the Pathfinder programme including evidence of improved multi-agency working, support for new roles and increased consistency in support for children. We are taking the learnings from this report into national rollout.

Thank you for the work that you do to ensure that this Government is held to account and is operating responsibly to meet children's needs and to support families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janet Daby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Janet Daby MP
Minister for Children and Families