



For family or friends who
step up to raise a child.

Helen Hayes MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24th August 2026

Dear Helen,

We are writing to you in your role as Chair of the Education Committee to ask that the Committee consider a non-inquiry session on the Government's planned reforms to adoption and kinship support, set out in its *'Adoption support that works for all'* consultation.

The Department for Education has said it plans to respond to the consultation in the autumn. With Parliament returning after the summer recess, we believe there is a timely opportunity for Committee members and other parliamentarians to examine the proposals and ensure the Government can demonstrate a robust evidence base for the specifics of the Department's proposals and assessment of their potential impact before they are implemented.

At a parliamentary drop-in for MPs in July, it was clear that awareness of the proposed changes — and what they could mean for children and families — is limited. Given the scale and significance of the reforms, we are concerned that they could progress without sufficient parliamentary scrutiny.

We welcome the Government's ambition to improve support for adoptive and kinship families. The need for reform is urgent: the latest Adoption Barometer found that last year 42% of adoptive families faced significant challenges or crisis, and more than 1 in 8 (13%) kinship carers who responded to Kinship's 2025 annual survey said they were concerned about their ability to continue caring for their children in the next year, most commonly because of poor support for their children's social, emotional and mental health needs. However, we are deeply concerned that aspects of the current proposals risk weakening access to specialist therapeutic support, and at a time when need is acute.

We believe the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF) should be strengthened, not dismantled. The proposals suggest devolving the Fund to regional adoption agencies or local authorities, yet there is no accompanying evidence that this approach will improve outcomes or access to therapeutic support for children and families. In fact, devolution creates a serious risk that this funding will be spent on other priorities rather than on adoption or kinship support. Given the importance of the Fund, this lack of evidence warrants careful scrutiny before any changes are implemented.

This is particularly concerning considering the reductions to the ASGSF announced in April last year. In its report *'Children's Social Care: Fourth Report of Session 2024–25'*, the Education Committee highlighted the risks of making consequential changes in one part of the system without the wider reforms and mitigations needed elsewhere. The Committee also called for the

impact of the reduced funding limits to be monitored and for action to be taken if significant negative effects emerged. The Government's current proposals make it especially important that the impact of these changes is properly understood before further reform is taken forward.

Across the eight proposals, kinship families receive limited consideration. Access to therapeutic support for kinship families remains fragile and underdeveloped, and reform should build on recent progress in recognising kinship care, rather than treating kinship families as an extension of the adoption support system.

Adoption and kinship care can provide children with stability, but they do not remove the lifelong effects of early adversity, trauma and loss. Many children and young people who are adopted and in kinship care will need specialist, trauma-informed support during childhood and, in some cases, adulthood. Reform must ensure that this support is strengthened, not eroded.

We therefore urge the Committee to consider holding a non-inquiry session to examine the Department's proposals closely and provide an opportunity for adoptive and kinship families, sector experts and others to share their views and expertise.

For further details you can find our respective submissions to the consultation published earlier this year: [Adoption UK](#) and [Kinship](#). We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or with Committee staff to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Frith
Chief Executive Officer
Adoption UK



Lucy Peake
Chief Executive
Kinship