



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
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PO-1517166

Ms Tamora Langley
Convenor
First 1001 Days Movement
By email to: tamora@parentinfantfoundation.org.uk

8 August 2024

Dear Ms Langley,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 July, co-signed by a number of stakeholders, offering your kind congratulations on my appointment as the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and offering to brief me on the work of your organisation.

It is a huge privilege to be leading a department that, through our health and social care system, touches everyone's lives at some point. The NHS saved my life, and I cannot think of a better way to spend it than repaying my debt and saving the NHS.

I have already started work assessing the huge problems facing our health and social care services – in order for us to write the correct prescription for the NHS, we need an accurate diagnosis. It will take time to fix it, and it will only happen with a team effort. It will be the mission of this department, every member of Keir Starmer's Government and the 1.4 million people who work in the NHS to turn the health service around.

I welcome your support for this Government's commitment to give every child the best start in life. I would also like to extend my thanks for the work your members undertake to advocate for babies' emotional wellbeing and development. I look forward to learning more about your collective vision and Manifesto for Babies.

There is strong evidence that the 1001 days from conception to the age of two set the foundations for our cognitive, emotional and physical development. Investment in this period improves outcomes across the life course, from early childhood through to health and educational outcomes later in life. The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme provides support for families during this important time.

I recognise the uncertainty that local authorities are currently operating within and will give more information about how this Government will continue to support babies and their families as soon as I am able to.

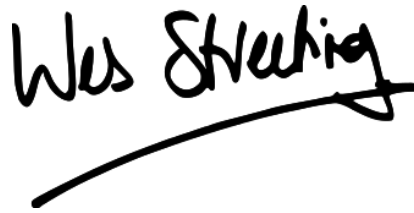
I am very keen to meet a range of stakeholders, and I am aware you have also contacted the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson. When diary pressures allow, my team will be in touch to arrange a meeting.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the coming months and years.

In the meantime, and ahead of our meeting, I would be grateful if you could consider the part your organisations could play in contributing to our ten-year plan to make the NHS fit for the future. We will be consulting on the plan in the coming months and we are keen to hear from patients, experts and staff, so I hope you will embrace the opportunity to get involved.

I hope this reply is helpful, and I would be grateful if you could share it with your co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wes Streeting". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a long, sweeping horizontal line that starts under the 'W' and ends under the 'g', with a small upward tick at the end.

WES STREETING