



APPOINT A CABINET MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE!

NEWS RELEASE FROM CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Embargo: Wednesday, 7th September 2022

Today, representatives from business, the voluntary sector and academia join politicians in Westminster's Terrace Pavilion to call for the appointment of a Cabinet Minister for Children and Young People.

A quartet of reports from Children's Alliance will be launched just two days after the announcement of a new Prime Minister and Baroness Frances De Souza, Honorary President of Children's Alliance welcomed the timing:

'Sky high energy bills and a catastrophic cost of living crisis hot on the heels of a 'once in a century' pandemic mean that we cannot go on as before. Children and young people are consigned to the margins of a country they will one day lead and there has been no legislation about their health and wellbeing since 2010!

*The new Prime Minister must stop the rot and appoint a Cabinet Minister for Children and Young People who will ensure that their needs are at the heart of policy in **all** Government Departments. Pilot schemes and locally commissioned 'projects' are poor excuses for decisive national leadership at a time of national emergency.'*

The policy quartet contains a wealth of information from professional practice and real life experience for use by national and local government, business and the voluntary sector and covers a spectrum from planning and construction through to law and order, housing, health, transport, education, and socioeconomic strategy. Early investment, early intervention and preventative action make sense now and are cost-effective in the long term.

'The Early Years,' 'Physical Health,' Mental Health' and 'Family and Community' champion partnership working and respect for diversity in order to build strong and cohesive communities.

Speaking on behalf of Water Babies; sponsor of Children's Alliance, Tamsin Brewis said:

'These reports contain the latest findings of many distinguished experts in a variety of fields. They show that giving children and young people the best start in life is the way to make the United Kingdom a more equal and productive society in which we can all thrive while contributing to a UK that is

a safe and welcoming place for all its residents and an example of the very best practice in our world family of nations.'

Southend West MP Anna Firth will host the event. She said:

'My distinguished predecessor Sir David Amess had agreed to host this event initially and did much to bring the excellent work of Children's Alliance to the attention of our Parliamentary and Ministerial colleagues. I am so sad that he cannot celebrate the publication of the policy quartet with us today but know that his wonderful work with and for children and young people everywhere is a legacy that we will always honour in his name at Westminster – the seat of our democracy and the guardian of equality and justice for all.'

ENDS

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Note: Children's Alliance is a Water Babies outreach not-for-profit Community Interest Company: <https://childrensalliance.org.uk/>