



APPG for Adoption and Permanence Inquiry: Strengthening Families Terms of Reference

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Adoption and Permanence (APPGAP) is launching a new inquiry today in response to the recently announced Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England.

The Review, chaired by Josh MacAlister, has been called a 'once in a generation opportunity' to reform the care system in England. A central aim of the Review is understanding how the system can be reformed to **enable stability, safety, and love for children**, particularly those who are unable to remain living with their birth family.

APPGAP is committed to ensuring that the needs of adopted young people and their families are given due attention throughout the process of the Review. For children for whom adoption is the right decision, this inquiry will consider how we can ensure a continuity of love and stability as they move from the care system into an adoptive family, as well as how adoptive families can be strengthened to provide stable and loving homes for children to grow up in. Where stability is not achieved, families can be in crisis and in the worst cases, children and young people are at risk of re-entering the care system; a process which is recognised to have a significant impact on children themselves, as well as the adoptive family. **This inquiry seeks to consider some of the key points of vulnerability in a child and family's adoption journey and how families can be strengthened to enable all members, but particularly children and young people, to experience the ongoing love, stability, and safety they need in order to flourish.**

This inquiry will focus on aspects of adoption which are of greatest relevance to the Review as well as most significant in achieving stability for a child. The following will be considered:

- The role of **matching** in laying stable foundations for children and families;
- Best practice in enabling a **continuity of love and stability** for all children journeying into adoption;
- The support provided to **newly formed adoptive families** and how they might be further strengthened; and
- How adoptive families can be supported to remain **stable over the long-term**, particularly across **key transition points** in children's lives.

Policy and practice improvements in these areas are key to strengthening adoptive families and, ultimately, achieving greater stability for adopted children and young people. The group will examine evidence covering these areas and make recommendations to the Review team and its Chair.

Learning from the lived experience of children and those parenting and caring for them is a priority for APPGAP and an essential part of the Review. Thus, APPGAP is launching this inquiry with a **Call for Evidence**, seeking the views of adopted people, adoptive parents, frontline professionals, academics, and voluntary organisations working in adoption.

We invite you to submit responses using our two **online surveys**:
[Survey](#) for adopted children and young people (Age 18 and under).
[Survey](#) for adopted adults, adoptive parents, and professionals.

For further information about the inquiry, please contact info@appgap.org.uk.
Deadline for submissions is **Friday 16 April 2021**.