

The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

January 2024

Reinstate Funding for Children of Alcohol-Dependent Parents

Dear Minister,

On behalf of Alcohol and Families Alliance (AFA), we would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss the need to reinstate the Children of Alcohol-Dependent Parents (CADeP) programme, the cut DHSC strategy for children which ran from 2018 to 2022.

As a coalition of over 40 voluntary and statutory organisations campaigning to reduce the harms caused to families through alcohol misuse, we were pleased by the recent highly favourable evaluation of CADeP and with the praise from your predecessor, Health Minister Neil O'Brien MP.

The Government has recently invested significant additional funds into the substance misuse sector. We want to work with you to ensure that funding continues to be spent on the initiatives covered by CADeP that were shown to be effective: helpline expansion, NGO development, and joined up local dedicated projects under a national programme. This is not the case as things stand.

Without ring fencing a national dedicated fund, or targets that encourage the innovative approaches, families, and in particular children, will not benefit from the additional funding the Government has made available. As we know, without early intervention, these children are much more likely to present later on in other areas of welfare, justice, or NHS waiting lists.

As far as we know, almost none of the extra Government funding for the drug and alcohol sector has been earmarked for work with affected children. The removal of national funding for NGO and helpline development means that the most vulnerable of children will miss out on support altogether.

Those of us in the alcohol and families sector want to meet to discuss frustrations with the current direction of travel. With engagement and taking shifts to return to a national plan, we are certain the United Kingdom can return to a world-leading role helping these children into a better future.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP – Chair, APPG on Children of Alcoholics



Dan Carden MP – Chair, APPG on Drugs, Alcohol and Justice



Christian Wakeford MP – Chair, APPG on Alcohol Harm



Eric Appleby – Chair, Alcohol and Families Alliance

Vivienne Evans OBE – Chief Executive, Adfam

Hilary Henriques MBE – Chief Executive, Nacoa UK

Danny Hames - Chair of the NHS Addictions Provider Alliance and Head of Inclusion

David Homes CBE – CEO, Family Action

Dr John McMahon – CEO, Bottled Up

Dr Katherine Severi – Chief Executive, Institute of Alcohol Studies

Dr Richard Piper – Chief Executive, Alcohol Change UK

Ellinor Jayne – Director, SHAAP

Jess Mullen – CEO, Collective Voice

Julie Bass – CEO, Turning Point

Justina Murray – CEO, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

Kate Halliday – Executive Director, Addiction Professionals

Mike Trace – CEO, The Forward Trust

Paul Rompani – CEO, DrugFAM

Paul Townsley – CEO, Humankind

Professor Richard Velleman – Treasurer and Trustee, AFINet (Addiction and the Family International Network)

Raj Ubhi – Director of Children & Young People’s Service, CGL (Change, Grow, Live)

Richard McVey – Head of Service, Aquarius

Sue Pettigrew – Director, St Michael’s Fellowship

Sue Taylor – Head of Alcohol Policy, Fresh and Balance

Terry Martin – Chair of Trustees, AlcoHELP