



Craig Whittaker MP

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Strategic Director of Children & Young People's Services, Derby City Council

Tuesday, 18 June 2013

Dear **Mr Bunyan**

I am writing to you as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked-After Children and Care Leavers. We are a group of parliamentarians who meet regularly with looked-after children and care leavers, care experienced adults and professionals who work with them.

Our current legislative and statutory framework puts in place a number of entitlements for looked-after children and care leavers. However, at recent APPG meetings I have heard from young people from across the country who are not aware of these entitlements or who are not receiving them.

We have therefore launched the Entitlements Inquiry to seek to understand this gap between legislation and the reality for children and young people. We will look explicitly at ten entitlements which were chosen by attendees of the APPG, however the Inquiry will be asking for evidence of any barriers to children and young people receiving any entitlement.

Local government is the place where legal entitlements are made a reality for looked-after children and care leavers. We want to hear from children in care councils and the professionals who work with them about what is working well and the barriers that prevent children and young people from receiving their entitlements.

We would welcome the involvement of your local authority – your looked-after children, care leavers and staff in the Inquiry. You can take part in three different ways:

- Through online surveys for young people, professionals and older care leavers
- By running a participation group with young people
- By sending us a written evidence submissions.

You can find out more about the Inquiry and how to submit evidence at <http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/pages/entitlements-inquiry-2013.html>.

The deadline for evidence until 17th August 2013 and will report during National Care Leavers Week. If you have any questions about the Inquiry then please do not hesitate to contact Jack Smith, the Clerk to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked-After Children and Care Leavers (jack.smith@thewhocarestrust.org.uk or 020 7251 3117), who will be able to help you.

Yours sincerely

Craig Whittaker MP,

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked-After Children and Care Leavers

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