



**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**  
Secretary of State

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14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear colleague,

As members of either the Practice Leader or Principal Social Worker national networks for children's social care, we wanted to write and thank you, directly, for your leadership in and dedication to supporting vulnerable children and young people during this pandemic.

We wanted to write to you specifically because of the time you have taken, on top of everything else you do, to work with the Department and for all the candid and constructive advice and insight you have provided to date. It is critical that we are able to benefit from your expertise as we respond to the daily challenges, we are all currently facing. Understanding the realities of practice for your workforce, but also for children and families across England, is invaluable.

As we move further into uncharted territory, working to address the unprecedented challenges coronavirus (COVID-19) brings to vulnerable children and families, there has never been more of a need for your contribution.

Many of you are not only working at a local level to ensure effective practice but are also working regionally and nationally with partner organisations. You are making use of professional links with each other, exchanging best practice and problem solving. We are already seeing how these networks can help to find creative solutions to challenges, including to adapt services to make sure they meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.

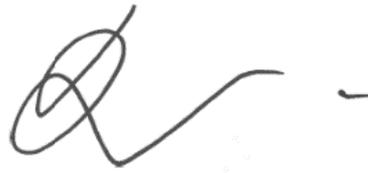
Thank you for continuing to work in such a collaborative way and for engaging with us so openly. We have found this way of working invaluable in helping to shape our response to the pandemic. We will continue to listen to your views through regular dialogue with you, so that together, over the coming weeks and months, we can move through the transitional phases of the pandemic towards recovery and renewal.

By working together, we can continue to identify and deliver lasting change that transforms lives and help the wider public have a better understanding of the importance and value of social work.

Thank you for all that you do.



**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**  
**Secretary of State for Education**



**Isabelle Trowler**  
**Chief Social Worker for**  
**England (Children and Families)**