



**Vicky Ford MP**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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**LETTER OF THANKS FROM MINISTER FORD**

I am writing to pass on my utmost thanks to all of you working within Children's Social Care.

Your commitment throughout the pandemic has been nothing short of inspiring, adapting to new ways of working whilst maintaining vital relationships with children and young people to ensure they get the support they need during this difficult time.

I and my colleagues recognise that as key workers, the children's social care workforce is at the front line of the pandemic, caring for and supporting children, young people and their families in incredibly challenging circumstances.

I would like to convey my heartfelt and personal thanks for all you have done. Your dedication has shone through in your continued home visits. You have supported families to get vulnerable children and young people back into school and college and your involvement in the 'Get help with technology' programme ensured laptops and tablets reached children so they could have virtual visits and access to remote education. These are just some of the ways in which social workers have gone above and beyond throughout this period.

Your determination and professionalism are truly inspiring and I was delighted to see this recognised at the Social Worker of the Year thank you event in November. Seeing and hearing social workers from across the country celebrate their work reminded me how important it is, now more than ever, to share achievements and acknowledge the extraordinary work that all those in children's social care do.

As we move into winter, I recognise that there is much more still to do and that those working in children's social care are best placed to identify families in need of extra support.

We are committed to working with you and colleagues across the sector to help ensure our cross-government package of support benefits thousands more children,

that the COVID Winter Grant Scheme reaches those hardest-hit by the pandemic and that the soon to be announced Care Review ensures a fair system for all families.

Thank you again and may I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vicky Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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