



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

PO-1517003

Ms Amanda Allard  
Director  
Council for Disabled Children  
By email to: [bfraser@ncb.org.uk](mailto:bfraser@ncb.org.uk)

7 August 2024

Dear Ms Allard,

Thank you for your recent correspondence, co-signed by Matthew Dodd, kindly congratulating me on my appointment as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

It is a huge privilege to be leading a department that, through our health and social care system, touches everyone's lives at some point. The NHS saved my life, and I cannot think of a better way to spend it than repaying my debt and saving the NHS.

I have already started work assessing the huge problems facing our health and social care services – in order for us to write the correct prescription for the NHS, we need an accurate diagnosis. It will take time to fix it, and it will only happen with a team effort. It will be the mission of this department, every member of Keir Starmer's Government and the 1.4 million people who work in the NHS to turn the health service around.

I welcome your support for this Government's commitments to give every child the best start in life and to create the healthiest generation of children ever.

I would also like to extend my thanks to you and Mr Dodd for the critical work that your organisations and the Children and Young People's Health Policy Influencing Group do to advocate for the rights for children and young people. I look forward to learning more about your collective vision for ensuring children are prioritised in the NHS and public health system. I was also interested to read of your advocacy for a single unique child identifier as an element of a wider strategy for effective data sharing.

I'm grateful for your kind words on my appointment, and I am keen to meet, my diary manager will be in touch shortly to schedule a meeting. In the meantime, and ahead of our meeting, I would be grateful if you could consider the part your organisation could play in contributing to our ten-year plan to make the NHS fit for the future. We will be consulting on the plan in the coming months and we are keen to hear from patients, experts, and staff, so I hope you will embrace the opportunity to get involved.

I am copying this reply to Mr Dodd.

Yours sincerely,

*Wes Streeting*

**WES STREETING**

cc Matthew Dodd