



Marie Rimmer CBE, MP
Member of Parliament for St. Helens
South & Whiston
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

Parents and Carers of Young Children:

Parents are too often unable to see their health visitors or get the early help and advice they need. I share constituents concern that there is a postcode lottery to accessing services. There are long waiting lists for child and adolescent mental health services, which is leaving children with inadequate treatment, and parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are increasingly having to turn to the courts to get the right support for their child.

We know that much is determined for children early on and that we can make the biggest impact in the early years, but parents are struggling to afford childcare and providers are closing down. I worry that Ministers are not recognising the importance of childcare in setting children up for school and supporting development.

I believe the role of Government is to help every family succeed by delivering high quality childcare, good healthcare and early support for new families.

I support an ambitious ten-year plan of reform and modernisation of the NHS, to speed up treatment, focus on prevention, and harness life sciences and technology to reduce preventable illness and cut health inequalities, including in maternity care. I also support calls for a whole-Government plan to improve mental health outcomes. We need to treat mental health as seriously as physical health and give it genuine parity of esteem.

With childcare, I want to see a complete transformation in how it is delivered, to create a modern system that supports families from the end of parental leave to the end of primary school. As a first step, I support calls to remove the barriers that prevent councils from setting up more childcare provision where parents need it and introduce breakfast clubs in every primary school, paid for by ending non-domiciled tax status.

The Government must also work with parents, carers and children with SEND to deliver the system they have been calling for. I want to see joined up services and improved data usage, to identify children's needs earlier so that intervention supports child development from a young age.

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP

Constituency Office:

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2nd Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,
marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.marierimmer.co.uk