



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

Household Support Fund:

I believe that children must be a priority for the Government. For too many children, across too much of our country, their backgrounds are affecting their opportunities, all their lives long.

Every parent wants the best for their children, but many are struggling. Wages are too low, childcare is too expensive, decent homes are unaffordable and the social security system is not properly protecting and supporting those who rely on it. Foodbank use and in-work poverty have risen, and more than four million children are now living in poverty.

With regard to the Household Support Fund, the Government has declined to say whether the fund will continue for the financial year 2024/25. I recognise that this lack of certainty about the fund will disappoint you and I hope that Ministers will provide clarity on this point. At present, local authorities are being left in limbo as they try to plan for their 2024/25 budgets, and I fear that this may lead to interruptions to service provision and job losses.

More widely, I want to ensure parents have the early support they need to provide every child with a firm foundation that sets them up for life. Reducing child poverty should be at the centre of how we secure opportunity for children and young people from every background, but I worry that Ministers do not have a serious plan to tackle it.

I support calls to involve child poverty experts in a cross-Government taskforce dedicated to breaking down the barriers to opportunity for every child. I also want to see reform of Universal Credit alongside a modern childcare system that supports parents from the end of parental leave to the end of primary school, with breakfast clubs in every primary school and councils enabled to deliver more childcare provision where parents need it.

By reducing poverty and providing effective early help, I believe it is possible can alleviate some of the pressures on families. We need to take these steps to ensure that every child has the best possible start in life.

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