



Special Guardians and Adopters Together
"Lack of LAC" Campaign

Name

Address

Date

Dear

I am writing to you to ask for your support in a matter that is impacting on some of the UK's most vulnerable children. At the moment a child who is under a Special Guardian Order but was not 'previously looked after' - because their carers wished to avoid the child being taken into care - may not be able to access the help and support needed, as they are not eligible for it. The same children, with the same needs cannot access the same support because in doing what they believed was right for the child, their special guardian has prevented them from being able to receive:

- 'Pupil Premium Plus', a payment to help our schools fund help for the child(ren)
- Access to a designated teacher or the 'virtual head teacher', who oversees the educational needs and support for LAC/previously LAC children.
- The Adoption Support Fund' (ASF), a fund that enables children and families to access specialist therapeutic support.

Being able to access the right support and understanding, when it is needed, is of utmost importance for special guardianship and adoptive families where children are on the edge of care and have already been removed from their birth parents. It is a false economy not to provide support for these children and families when the cost of just one child entering or reentering care can easily add up to £hundreds of thousands. These children carry so much loss - and if they do go into care they are amongst the most vulnerable in the care system.

I am asking if you could raise this issue of inequity with the Children's Minister, Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP.

If you would like any further information the email address for the campaign is lackoflac@gmail.com and the campaign is being led by two special guardians, Kathryn and Jennifer, who like many others have been affected by this issue.

Yours

cc lackoflac@gmail.com