

Victoria Borwick
Chair, Health and Public Services Committee

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Date: 21 February 2012

Dear Boris

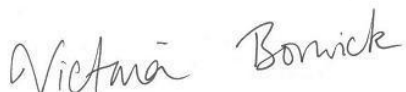
Proposal for a London-wide campaign to recruit foster carers

The Health and Public Services Committee recently held a meeting with a range of stakeholders to discuss the experiences and outcomes for the capital's 10,000 looked after children. At this meeting, expert guests discussed the shortage of foster carers in the capital, and the impact this was having on children in care. The shortage of foster carers can mean that children may be placed with families who are not able to meet all their needs, or with families who are not a good match in terms of ethnicity or religion. The shortage can also mean that children are moved more regularly, and are placed far away from their previous homes which can disrupt their schooling, and take them away from their friendship networks. Guests spoke about the positive impact a good foster care relationship can have on a foster child's life and outcomes.

The Committee is therefore writing to ask whether you would consider liaising with London Councils about the feasibility and benefits of a London-wide campaign to encourage Londoners to become foster carers. A London-wide campaign could help make Londoners more aware of the need to recruit foster carers, raise the profile of foster carers and the positive difference they can make to young people's lives, and could also achieve efficiency savings compared to local recruitment campaigns.

I would be grateful if you could reply to me by 19 March with your views on this proposal

Yours sincerely,



Victoria Borwick AM
Chair, Health and Public Services Committee

cc: Pam Chesters, Mayor's Advisor on Health and Families