

Presentation to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Conception to Age Two

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Background

- We are a non-partisan group working to introduce a national life chances strategy, focused on the first 1001 critical days of a child's life.
- We are working with all political parties and early years organisations to set up a Commission to create the outline strategy.
- We want to gain support for the development of a national coordinating strategy to give every child a strong start in life.

Rationale

- We need a whole systems approach to early childhood development.
- Early intervention is crucial – there are significant economic and social benefits to intervening early.
- We need to reduce the annual cost of late intervention (nearly £17bn).

The Commission

- The Government's green paper on transforming children and young people's mental health provision suggests DfE/ DH will start fresh research into parental engagement/ support.
- Sufficient research (including Penelope Leach's recently edited book) is already available to develop a national strategy.
- We will set up a Commission made up of professionals to pull together this outline strategy.

Structure

- Suggested topics for the Commission include:
 - Parent/ infant relationships including mental health.
 - Early communication in the first 1001 days.
 - Economic wellbeing.
 - Physical wellbeing.
- Within the strategy, we would like to see:
 - A legislative framework for implementation.
 - Increased and dedicated investment.
 - Mechanisms for increasing the strength of leadership at a local/ national level (designated leads).
- It will meet on five occasions between March – December 2018 and report in early 2019.

Key recommendations

- We ask the APPG to consider formally endorsing the Commission.
- We hope that a member of the APPG could join this to provide insight on the 1001 days manifesto.
- We would appreciate the support of the APPG to create the narrative, and build support within communities and all political parties, for taking forward the strategy.

Contact us

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