Promoting & protecting children's rights

Dear Colleague,

Children's Commissioner: Call for evidence - capturing the voice of looked-after children and care leavers

I am committed to putting the interests and voices of looked after children at the heart of policy and practice that involves or affects them.

Therefore, I am pleased to have engaged the National Children's Bureau (NCB) with the support of Research in Practice (RiP) to carry out a review of sources of evidence on the views, experiences and perceptions of children in and leaving care in England.

NCB is working with my Director of Evidence Leon Feinstein to:

- gather information identifying the existing mechanisms by which the voices of children in and leaving care are captured
- Identify sources of evidence since April 2015 relating to the views, experiences and perceptions of children in or leaving care.

The aim is: to understand the types of evidence available; to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence base; and to assess any gaps in the evidence on the voice of looked after children and care leavers. This will help determine our plans for further national reports on the state of the nation for looked after children.

I would be very grateful for your support in communicating and responding to this call for evidence. If you have any questions about this call for evidence, please contact the research team directly: Dr John Dodd, Director of Research and Policy, at the National Children's Bureau or email jdodd@ncb.org.uk. If you would like to confirm that this is a genuine piece of research, please contact Prof Leon Feinstein (Leon.feinstein@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Anne Longfield OBE
Children's Commissioner for England