

Edward Timpson MP

Minister of State for Children and Families

The Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings

20 Great Smith Street Health Conditions in Schools Alliance

London SW1P 3BT c/o Thalie Martini at Diabetes UK Macleod House

 10 Parkway

 London NW1 7AA

29 April 2016

Dear Minister,

**Implementation of s.100 of the Children and Families Act 2014**

Thank you for your letter dated 22 March in response to this matter.

We welcome your commitment to asking officials at the Department for Education (DfE) to ascertain what more they can do to raise awareness of the duty in section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 (CFA). We are additionally encouraged by the concern that you share with us about those schools that have not demonstrated that they are in compliance with this duty.

However, there are a number of points raised in your letter on which we would like to seek clarification. These are as follows:

1. You state that, “we monitor the correspondence and enquiries that we receive from schools and parents on this, and there is no evidence of widespread evasion of this responsibility by schools”. We would like to ask that you outline what the DfE is indeed doing in order to monitor correspondence and enquiries from schools and parents. We would also like to enquire as to the nature and volume of correspondence and enquiries the DfE is receiving from schools and parents in relation to this, given that our monitoring of parents has yielded a different response.
2. With regard to your request for “officials to think about what more we can do to raise awareness”, we would like to ask what precisely you have asked officials to do, what they are currently planning to do and when they are planning to do so. The Alliance would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the DfE to support awareness raising efforts to ensure this duty is more widely implemented.
3. You set out further that, “guidance was provided to Ofsted inspectors, but with the introduction of the new inspection framework in September 2015 this has been reduced”. We would like to ask to what precisely this refers, and moreover what the rationale has been for reducing the remit of the Ofsted inspection guidance.

The Government must ensure that schools effectively implement their obligations under this duty. We are persuaded that the two recommendations we called for in our previous letter dated 26 February represent the most effective ways of ensuring that this duty is properly and effectively implemented across all of the schools to which it applies. We therefore reiterate our calls for the Government to take those actions.

We appreciate the difficulties in attempting to allocate time for meeting the Alliance in your ministerial diary. However, as this matter holds great significance to the lives of more than one million children across England living with long-term health conditions, we maintain that a meeting with the Alliance to discuss this matter should be a priority.

We therefore renew our request to meet with you to discuss our recommendations.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,

The Health Conditions in Schools Alliance

