



Department  
for Education

Office of the Chief Social Worker for  
Children and Families  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

7 July 2017

**Letter to Forward-ME from Isabelle Trowler**

Dear Lady Mar

Please accept my apologies for the delay in writing to you. I would like to thank you again for inviting me to the March meeting of Forward-ME. It was good to hear how things had developed with the group almost 3 years on from my first meeting with you, and I hope that it was helpful for you to hear about my work in the interim driving forward the reform agenda in children's social care. In particular, I drew attention to the Department for Education's policy paper Putting Children First, published in July 2016. I have attached a copy of this for your reference and I hope that the group finds it interesting.

Our discussions at the meeting reminded me of the challenges faced by children and families who have ME, and the role social workers play when working with these families. The possibility of you speaking to a group of social workers about ME was discussed, and my office wrote to put you in touch with the Chair of the Principal Child and Family Social Worker (PSW) Network, so that you can make arrangements to speak at an upcoming PSW Network conference. I will do my best to ensure that I can attend the PSW conference when the Forward-ME item is presented.

My office have also spoken to the Chair of the PSW Network about the potential for future collaborative work on a short handout or piece of guidance on social workers' handling of ME, which you may wish to take forward in parallel with making arrangements for the Network conference.

Members of Forward-ME also raised the ongoing issues of CAMHS involvement in cases of children with ME, and I said I would investigate the possibility of linking you up with

CAMHS. My office has shared with you details of contacts working on CAMHS at NHS England.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'IT', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families**