



Nadhim Zahawi MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Nickie Phillips
Head, Adoption Connects Regional Adoption Agency
Priory House, Monks Walk,
Chicksands,
Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ

20th April 2019

Dear Nickie,

I am writing to congratulate you on the launch of Adoption Connects regional adoption agency (RAA). With the launch of Adoption Connects, it means that live RAAs cover more than half of all local authorities across the country. I am delighted that adoption services from Central Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes have come together to match children in this region with their forever family, and to ensure that they get the best possible support. I appreciate all the efforts you, Colin, Sue and Mac and all your colleagues have invested in Adoption Connects to help realise the vision for a regionalised adoption system.

It is an exciting time to be involved with adoption policy and to see the number of RAAs growing across the country. We are all keen to develop a national system that is as effective and efficient as possible, and I am grateful to the projects, such as yours, that are helping to create this system.

I am confident that RAAs will improve services for children and families. RAAs are an opportunity to ensure the best possible outcomes for those going through the adoption process through more efficient matching and family finding, coordinated adopter recruitment, and a consistent offer of adoption support.

I look forward to hearing about the ongoing development of your new agency and how this helps greater joining up of services and funding across your region and utilising the lessons learned to support and sustain progress in the adoption system as a whole.

I would like to thank you again for your hard work throughout the RAA's

development, and wish you all the very best with your ongoing commitment to give both adopters and children the best possible adoption journey.

I am copying this letter to Lead Members for Children's Services in your region, and would like to thank them for their support for the new agency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nadhim Zahawi MP
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