Letter to candidates – local Council elections on 5 May 2022

Dear candidate,

**Mothers and children and your social care policy**

If elected, please tell me what you will do to stop the cruelty and discrimination which many mothers and children face from social services separating children from their mothers.  Loving mothers who need support because we are low-income, disabled, immigrant, survivors of domestic violence and/or racism or other discrimination, are disproportionately targeted for “child protection” investigations and are having our children taken into “care” and/or adopted.

**My experience is…** *[add your personal experiences here]*

* **Do you commit to council spending under the Care Act and Children Act prioritising support for mothers who need practical support for their caring responsibilities**, instead of triggering destructive “child protection” proceedings? This is also [highlighted](https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/campaigns-and-policy/how-to-campaign/may-2022-local-election-toolkit/secure-bold-commitments-from-candidates/) by Inclusion London after consulting disability organisations including WinVisible. Unwarranted separation causes lifelong trauma to children and mothers. Privatised and institutional “care” neglects children and is hugely expensive to councils.
* **Are you committed to abolishing homecare charges for disabled people as Hammersmith & Fulham have done?** Councils get government grants for social care, and Council Tax includes a social care amount, yet sick and disabled people are still charged for support at home. Charges are taking most of people’s benefit meant to meet our disability needs, causing immense suffering and driving people to drop out of services.
* **Do you commit to stop threatening sick and disabled people, including women with advanced cancer, with being taken to court for care charges debt?** Some haveactually been taken to court.
* **Will you work to ensure that everyone gets the support services they need, and that the cuts and the neglect people have suffered during the pandemic and before, are reversed?**

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Name: Address: