

23rd November 2020

Ben Everitt, MP for Milton Keynes North
Iain Stewart, MP for Milton Keynes South
Suite 102,
Milton Keynes Business Centre,
Foxhunter Drive,
Linford Wood,
MK14 6GD

Dear Ben Everitt MP and Iain Stewart MP,

We are writing to you to convey our sadness and disappointment over your decision, on 21st October 2020, to vote against a Labour motion that would have extended free school meals for children throughout school holidays, up until Easter 2021.

You will know the Conservative government have since U-turned on this, investing in the Covid Winter Grant Scheme and extending the Holiday Activities and Food programme to the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays next year. While we welcome the government's change of heart, we know that this is only a temporary solution.

The MK Community Foundation found only recently that an estimated 10,900 (17.7%) of children are living in poverty, and some areas of Milton Keynes show child poverty rates as high as 32%. In the Spring, 7,269 children in Milton Keynes were eligible for free school meals.

The Liberal Democrat Council Group will be bringing a motion to Council on this, urging the Cabinet to reaffirm its own commitment to fight child poverty, and to lobby yourselves and the government to put in place a permanent solution to child hunger over all holidays.

We therefore urge you to support the Liberal Democrat campaign which is calling for:

1. Free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit
2. Food vouchers for every one of those pupils in every school holiday and during any period of lockdown
3. Free school meals to pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds and destitute asylum seekers under s4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

We hope you agree that no child should go hungry, on any day of the year, and the government should do everything in its power to prevent this.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Douglas McCall

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group



Cllr Jane Carr

Liberal Democrat Children's Spokesperson