**Information Sheet: Join us to Shape the UK Government’s Child Poverty Strategy to Support Families and Children**

The Prime Minister announced a new Child Poverty Taskforce in July 2024 to develop government strategy better support children and families to thrive. We are working with Save the Children to talk with children, young people, and their families, to gather their views on how they can be supported by their local community and bring this to the Taskforce.

Save the Children is a UK based charity who fight for a world where every child has a chance of the future they deserve. With children, for children, they change the future for good.

We would like to invite you to join us to discuss in a group to share your experiences and ideas about supporting families in communities who are experiencing challenges like financial hardship or accessing local services.

This session is focusing on childhood disability poverty and your experiences, perspectives and hopes will be pivotal to the stratergy.

This information recorded in the discussion will then be given to the Taskforce to help them make recommendations for how best to support families and children in the UK.

**About the Session**

* **🗓️ Date & Time:** Tuesday 19th November at 12.30 2hrs
* **🌐 Where:** online/ zoom link to follow
* **🎁 Thank You Gift:** For joining us, you'll receive a **£35 voucher** from Amazon or a high street store for joining us.

**What is the Child Poverty Taskforce?**

The UK Government's Child Poverty Taskforce is looking to understand and address the challenges faced by children and families today. The Taskforce aims to develop effective policies and programs by listening directly to those who have firsthand experience of living in your community.

Your insights will help shape recommendations made to the government, which we hope will lead to meaningful change.

**What Will We Discuss?**

The session will focus on the theme of "Better Local Support" and will explore:

1. Access to Public Services: What affects your ability to access education, health services, and early years support. As well as any challenges you or your family might have faced in utilising these services.
2. Role of Local Authorities: How local authorities can improve support for children and families in current times. We’ll talk about any support you /your family members might have received in a crisis and how it might be improved.
3. Potential Solutions: Your ideas on what could be done to make things better for children growing up in your community. Suggestions for government action to support families to give their children the best chances in life.

**If I agree to take part, what will I have to do?**

You will be invited to share your own experiences as part of a 1-hour workshop, alongside other parents/carers with similar experiences. We will be focusing on access and experience of public services in your community, and what could be done to improve things for families in your area.

There may be members of the UK Government Child Poverty Taskforce present, who will be listening and taking part in the conversation. This is for them to hear directly about the experiences of parents/carers. You won’t at any point be asked to share anything you don’t want to - this means that you don’t have to answer any question you don’t want to or choose not to take part.

**How Will My Input Be Used?**

All information you provide to Inclusion London will be kept confidential and shared anonymously. Your experiences and suggestions will be compiled into a report for the Child Poverty Taskforce by Save the Children UK, hopefully influencing the child poverty strategy the UK Government is currently designing.

Some of the information collected during this session might be used to help us in our work or we might use a quote from you but this will be anonymous. You can tell us whether you want us to do this or not in the consent form. If you want to take part but you only want us to use what you tell us for the taskforce then you can still participate.

We do not plan to collect any information which could identify you, but we will collect your age and city/region to help with analysing data. This information will be shared with Save the Children and the Taskforce, but they will not be able to identify you from this data as it will be anonymised.

We will also audio record and transcribe what you say. We may use the AI transcription tool, Caption-ed, to do this. We will transcribe and delete any recording and transcription within 12 months. If you do not wish to be recorded, or you are not comfortable with the use of transcription tools, please let the facilitator of the discussion group know, and either you can drop out of the group, or we can make some alternative arrangements for you.

You have the right to withdraw your consent to us holding or using any personal information about you at any time, but please note that we may not hold anything which identifies you so for example it may not be possible to delete what you say as it is in anonymous form.

If you no longer wish to take part, please contact Julia Modern, Senior Policy & Campaigns Manager at Inclusion London, on Julia.modern@inclusionlondon.org.uk or 07989 741 472

For information about your Data Protection rights visit <https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/privacy-and-cookie-policy/>

**What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?**

We will be touching on family life and your experience of public services in Southwark, so it is up to you to choose if you want to share experiences from your family or speak about families and local services more generally. There is a risk that it can be upsetting to talk about challenges you or your family face. If you do choose to share, remember that information will be anonymised. This means nothing you say will have your name attached or could be traced back to you. If you do share anything personal or feel upset, we can signpost you to services that may be able to provide specific support for you or your family.

The main benefit of taking part is that it will help the UK Government design a support strategy that properly addresses the needs of families, by better understanding the experiences of those most impacted financial hardship. The hope is that you will feel better connected to other parents through sharing similar experiences and also that you feel that your experiences and opinions have been heard.

**Our Safeguarding Policy**

We will give you a copy of Inclusion London’s safeguarding policy on request – please contact Julia.modern@inclusionlondon.org.uk. We will also have physical copies of the safeguarding copy at the engagement session for you to look at. You can report any safeguarding concerns to Gelila Tekle-Mariam, who is Inclusion London’s Safeguarding Lead, on gelila.tekle-mariam@inclusionlondon.org.uk.

Save the Children UK wants everyone to feel safe with their staff and volunteers and at their events. If you feel worried, frightened or unhappy about something please tell us or someone from Save the Children. We will do our best to help you feel listened to, respected and safe from harm.

**To tell someone at Save the Children you can:**

* Phone them any time on 0800 085 2563. It’s free and you don’t have to tell them your name.
* Write an email to tell them about your worry or what has happened. Send it to focalpoint@savethechildren.org.uk.
* Fill in the form on this website: <https://forms.theiline.co.uk/save-the-children-uk>
* If you or someone else is hurt or in immediate danger, call 999 for an ambulance or help from the police (or ask an adult you trust to call)

Save the Children UK has a Safeguarding Team specially trained in helping to make sure children and families feel safe and listened to. If you decide to speak up one of their team will contact you about what happened, how you are feeling and what they can do to help. If you speak up and choose not to tell them your name or how to contact you, they will still work hard to find out what happened and make sure it does not happen again.

Our facilitators are happy to support you/or direct you to additional support if you need it or would like to talk to us about any concerns you may have.

**Who do I contact if I would like to have more information on the Child Poverty Task Force or have a complaint?**

Priya Edwards, Senior Policy & Advocacy Adviser – p.edwards@savethechildren.org.uk

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

Save the Children has been asked by the UK Government’s Child Poverty Taskforce to help facilitate conversations between families and people who work in communities with the taskforce, in order to help shape a UK-wide strategy to support families in financial need.

Save the Children is funding and coordinating the research. Inclusion London is working with Save the Children to deliver sessions with communities.

**Who has ethically reviewed the research?**

This research has been reviewed and appraised by Save the Children’s Safeguarding Ethics and Data Protection (SEAD) Committee.

**What if I change my mind about taking part?**

You can withdraw your consent from being involved in this project at any time. You can stop being involved before, during and even after the workshop. We will do our best to support you with this. Choosing not to take part or withdrawing from a workshop will not impact on any other service or support you receive from Inclusion London or Save the Children.