



Baroness Barker  
Vice Chair  
All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS  
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The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP  
Minister of State for School Standards  
20 Great Smith Street,  
Westminster,  
London  
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Dear Minister of State

For the first time since 2000, the official guidance on relationships and sex education (RSE) in England is changing. With your leadership RSE is mandatory in every secondary school, regardless of whether they are state or private. And that is a welcome development.

The new guidance is wide-ranging, updated for a society in which children and young people are “living their lives seamlessly on and offline”.

We recently held a meeting with the Children’s HIV Association (CHIVA) who presented us with the schools’ guidance they produced in collaboration with partners in wider children’s sector and education.

They mentioned they have had difficulty in getting take up or support from Department for Education to generate awareness of this practice resource to be made available for all schools across the UK.

We were informed that there are instances where schools react negatively to information that a pupil is living with HIV, or that HIV is an issue for their family. Lack of awareness had led to inappropriate disclosure which put pupils and their families at risk of discrimination or potential harm.

In order to avoid such unnecessary distress CHIVA would like the resource they have written to be easily available to all schools ideally via the Department for Education website.

Ultimately, CHIVA are talking about schools, as a key site where children and young people spend significant parts of their life, needing to be up to date with current HIV knowledge and understanding, and sufficiently equipped to respond appropriately to HIV related experiences and needs among their pupils.

They would like this framed as an equalities issue and urge that HIV information should not only exist in schools as part of the sex and relationships curriculum, but part of school

policies and procedures to ensure all staff are informed when dealing with children living with HIV or who have parents who are living with HIV.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Baroness Barker  
Vice Chair

**All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS**

**CC.**

Kirsty Williams MS – **Minister for Education**

John Swinney MSP - **Deputy First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills**

Peter Weir MLA – **Minister of Education**