



FOREWORD

Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP

This report is the first research into the experience of siblings who are raising their younger brothers and sisters. The research highlights the amazing determination and sacrifices that these young people have made and are willing to make out of love and affection for their younger brothers and sisters. Many have themselves been through great trauma or tragedy in their young lives, including parental bereavement, or a life in and out the care system. Some are having to juggle their education, or put their career and relationship on hold, in order to give their young siblings the support and care they need. If there's any question about the strength, empathy, hard work and altruism of many of our young people, it's answered by the stories in this publication.

My sister stepped into look after me during my childhood. I therefore very much welcome this publication, which finally turns a spotlight on the situation of sibling carers and the children they are raising. This report demonstrates that our child welfare system still has a long way to go in giving these carers and the children the support and respect that they desperately need.