

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

2 March 2023

**Reinstated Funding for Children of Alcohol Dependent Parents**

Dear Chancellor,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Alcohol and Families Alliance, a collaboration of over 40 voluntary and statutory organisations united in reducing the harms experienced by families through alcohol. Together we campaign for greater recognition, support and services for families affected by alcohol misuse.

In 2018, several of our member organisations undertook innovative projects to develop solutions to tackle the problem of parental alcohol misuse. These projects were funded by the Department of Health and Social Care and Department of Work and Pensions through a grant to support Children of Alcohol Dependent Parents (CAdEP). This grant enabled ground-breaking work to take place which benefited these children and their parents, turning round their lives.

As part of International Children of Alcoholics Week, an annual campaign raising awareness of children that are affected by parental alcohol misuse, Nacoa (the National Association for Children of Alcoholics) published new evidence highlighting further challenges children affected by this issue in the UK face. The research found that 46 per cent of children with alcohol dependent parents have not told anyone outside their family, and a quarter haven't told anyone at all, not even their closest family members. This is coupled with a 27 per cent rise in alcohol-related deaths since 2019, as published by the Office for National Statistics.

It is vital that these children are given access to the support they need, and the Alcohol and Families Alliance is urging you to announce the reinstatement of this grant in your Spring Budget on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This will allow these important projects to continue and ensure that children affected by parental alcohol misuse are not forgotten, or neglected, but empowered to enjoy healthy and secure childhoods.

Whilst the Department of Health and Social Care's announcement of £421 million in funding to boost drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services across England is welcomed, children whose parents are not engaged in these services will still miss out, and there is a need for dedicated support to reach this overlooked group.

In addition to the many children affected by this issue, alcohol misuse also has a devastating impact on adult family members, including partners, parents, siblings, adult children and grandparents. We



would welcome future funding to take consideration and recognition of their needs too to ensure all family members affected by alcohol misuse get the help they need.

Yours sincerely,

**Eric Appleby - Chair, Alcohol and Families Alliance**

**Vivienne Evans OBE – Chief Executive, Adfam**

**Hilary Henriques MBE – Chief Executive, Nacoa**

**Danny Hames – Chair, NHS Addiction Providers Alliance**

**Dr John McMahon – CEO, Bottled Up**

**Dr Sam Wright – Research Associate, Manchester Metropolitan University**

**Jan Larkin – Head of Psychology, Turning Point**

**Justina Murray – CEO, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs**

**Kate Halliday – Executive Director, Addiction Professionals**

**Katherine Severi – Chief Executive, Institute of Alcohol Studies**

**Paul Rompani – CEO, DrugFAM**

**Paul Townsley – CEO, Humankind**

**Professor Sarah Galvani – Professor of Social Research and Substance Use, Manchester Metropolitan University**

**Raj Ubhi - Director of Children and Young People’s Services – Change, Grow, Live**

**Richard McVey – Head of Service, Aquarius**

**Richard Piper – CEO, Alcohol Change UK**

**Sue Pettigrew OBE – Director, St Michael’s Fellowship**

**Susan Taylor – Head of Alcohol Policy, Fresh Balance**

**Terry Martin – Trustee, AlcoHELP**