**Subject line: Support better childcare options for children with Additional Support Needs – Members’ Business Thursday 8th May**

Dear **XXXX MSP,**

**I am writing to you today because children with additional support needs in our area deserve better.**

Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide out-of-school and holiday care for children classified as “in need”, which includes those with disabilities or additional support needs.

However, far too many families struggle to find suitable out-of-school care during holiday periods. This causes distress for children and their families, as parents struggle to balance care-giving with work during the holidays.

With the summer holidays approaching, families making plans for childcare need clarity.

The Scottish Government and local authorities must do more to make out-of-school care readily available for children with disabilities or additional support needs.

Families need:

* Information published well in advance of holiday periods to make families aware of wraparound care providers available in the area, including contact information for referrals, cost information, transport options and whether a Section 23 assessment from Social Work is required to be eligible
* Similar information published for breakfast and after-school clubs during term-time
* Communication from wraparound care providers with important information including staff ratio, accessibility and facilities available so parents/carers can have confidence that the service will meet their child’s needs
* A clear process for direct payments to be provided and Personal Assistants engaged through self-directed support

**As my local representative, I am asking you to speak in support of the motion S6M-16503 “Wraparound Care for Children with Additional Support Needs” when it is debated in the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 8th May.**

**Will you attend and speak up for children and young people in our area?**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

NAME