[Your Name]
[Address]
[Email]
[Telephone]

[Date]

Dear [candidate’s name]:

**RE:- Supporting constituents with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder).**

I live in the constituency where you are seeking to become its member of Parliament.

I am writing to find out you views on the provisions for FASD locally and nationally.

I am asking you, as my prospective MP, to give me answers to 5 questions about addressing this national preventable condition and also to support my family locally.

1. Will you commit to raising awareness of the risks of alcohol in pregnancy? 
2. Will you promote implementation of NICE Quality Standard 204 in England & Wales and seek similar standards for Scotland & Northern Ireland to focus on FASD prevention, diagnosis and support?
3. Will you support constituents with FASD to access services and benefits to improve their lives?
4. Will you promote funding in the NHS, social care and education for those with FASD?
5. Will you be willing to meet with people with FASD and their families?

FASD is a hidden disability that affects between 2% and 4% of the constituents that you are looking to represent.[[1]](#footnote-1) Despite these numbers it is poorly understood in all areas that should be educating and supporting society. Services to prevent FASD & assess and support those with FASD or who may have it are sparce.

FASD is caused by prenatal alcohol exposure, and anyone affected has lifelong neurodevelopmental issues[[2]](#footnote-2) and in a minority of cases, distinct physical features. It is disproportionally reflected in children and young people who are or were in care 27%[[3]](#footnote-3) and 75% of those adopted are likely to have been exposed to alcohol in the womb[[4]](#footnote-4).

There is no mild FASD[[5]](#footnote-5)

FASD impacts my family because:-

In 2016 all of the Chief Medical Officers for the first time advised that to reduce the risk of FASD those who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant should not drink.

In 2019 the Scottish Government adopted the SIGN 156 as National clinical guidance for the assessment of FASD and support for people with the condition. This has since been accepted by NICE and is the guideline in England and Wales too. (Northern Ireland has yet to confirm it has accepted SIGN 156.)

In 2021 the Department of Health & Social Care published a Needs Assessment identifying significant needs surround this condition in England and the costs associated with it.

In 2022 NICE published a Quality Standard relating to FASD[[6]](#footnote-6) and in theory all Integrated Care & Health Boards in England & Wales should be making major progress in addressing this issue. There appears to have been very little done to address these standards and nationally there only a handful of examples of good practice.

To date there have been no major funded governmental plans made to educate the public about the risks associated with prenatal alcohol exposure or address the needs and considerable costs associated with FASD that the Department of Health & Social Care identified in 2021.

I hope if elected you will commit to supporting my family and others with FASD.

Yours sincerely

1. <https://www.salford.ac.uk/news/first-uk-study-of-its-kind-led-by-the-university-of-salford-reveals-the-local-extent-of-fetal> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.sign.ac.uk/our-guidelines/children-and-young-people-exposed-prenatally-to-alcohol/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-health-needs-assessment/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-health-needs-assessment> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Adoption & Fostering Journal 39.3 Oct 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-health-needs-assessment/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-health-needs-assessment> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs204> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)