



Labour One Year In

*A Hansard-based review of key debate, oral questions, and
bill committees affecting children and families*

Contents

Executive Summary	03
Introduction	04
Most MP Contributions by Party	05
Most Peer Contributions by Party	08
Nations & Devolved Context	11
Topic-by-Topic Breakdown	13
1. Adoption	
2. Kinship Care	
3. Fostering	
4. Special Guardianship Orders	
5. Supported Lodgings	
6. Loneliness	
7. Domestic Abuse	
8. Child Poverty	
Conclusion	25

Executive Summary

This report examines the first year of the Labour Government (July 2024-June 2025) through a comprehensive review of parliamentary contributions on children's social care and related issues, using Hansard records. It covers adoption, fostering, kinship care, special guardianship orders (SGOs), supported lodgings, domestic abuse, loneliness, and child poverty.

Key findings include:

- 1,973 contributions from MPs and Peers, with Labour members most active overall, reflecting their governing role.
- Liberal Democrat parliamentarians, despite small numbers, were consistently overrepresented, especially on adoption, fostering, kinship care, and domestic abuse.
- Conservative contributions were notably lower, especially on child poverty, suggesting less sustained focus on these issues.
- The newly introduced Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill was a major driver of debate, particularly around kinship care and fostering.

The report provides a strong foundation for targeted advocacy and outlines key opportunities to strengthen parliamentary engagement on areas of interest to Home for Good and Safe Families in the year ahead.

Introduction

Since the Labour Government took office on 4 July 2024, there were 1,973 contributions made by 412 MPs and 180 Peers on topics Home for Good and Safe Families are interested in and covered in this report. These contributions reflect widespread cross-party concern for the welfare of children and families.

This period saw the introduction of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (CWSB), the most substantial piece of legislation relating to children's social care in eight years, since the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Alongside the CWSB, other key legislation included the Employment Rights Bill, which prompted important discussions on adoption, fostering, and kinship care in the workplace.

This report analyses Hansard contributions referencing areas of significant interest to Home for Good and Safe Families, including *adoption, fostering, SGOs, kinship care, supported lodgings; child poverty; domestic abuse; loneliness*. The contributions were drawn from Commons debates, Lords debates, Westminster Hall debates, oral questions, and bill committees, and were manually collated from Hansard records. AI [ChatGPT] has been used to aid analysis, but all claims have been checked manually.

For the purposes of this report, a *contribution* is defined as any formal spoken reference to one or more of the specified themes within parliamentary business. To maintain the integrity of the analysis, contributions from government ministers responsible for children, families, education, and related portfolios have been excluded. The findings therefore reflect the engagement, scrutiny, and advocacy of backbench MPs, opposition spokespeople, and members of the House of Lords outside of government office.

Most MP Contributions by Party

In the first year of the new Labour Government, the following MPs consistently engaged in parliamentary discussions on adoption, fostering, kinship care, child poverty, domestic abuse, loneliness, supported lodgings, SGOs, and were vocal advocates for improved support for children and families.

Labour MP	Contributions	Conservative MP	Contributions	Liberal Democrat MP	Contributions
Lucy Powell	30	Rebecca Smith	18	Munira Wilson	66
Sarah Sackman	20	Danny Kruger	10	Josh Babarinde	31
Dr Marie Tidball	19	Gregory Stafford	10	Steve Darling	21

Liberal Democrat

Among Liberal Democrat MPs, Munira Wilson MP (66 contributions), the Spokesperson for education, children and families contributed significantly on discussions surrounding adoption, fostering, and child poverty, consistently raising these issues across debates and bill committees. Josh Babarinde MP (31 contributions), the party's Spokesperson for Justice, focused on domestic abuse, early intervention, and youth justice. Steve Darling MP (21 contributions) contributed regularly on fostering and care-experienced young people, often drawing on his own experience as an adoptee.

Munira Wilson MP stated that:

*"The Bill gets to the heart of our shared duty as public representatives to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children."*¹

Far from political rhetoric, her words show a genuine empathy and commitment, cementing her position as a leading parliamentary voice on children's issues.

Labour

Among Labour MPs, Lucy Powell MP² (30 contributions) focused on family stability and child poverty, drawing on her frontbench³ experience to shape debate on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. Sarah Sackman MP (20 contributions) and Dr Marie Tidball (19 contributions) were strong advocates on domestic abuse.

¹ Munira Wilson MP, House of Commons debate on the *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill*, 8 January 2025, [Hansard](#).

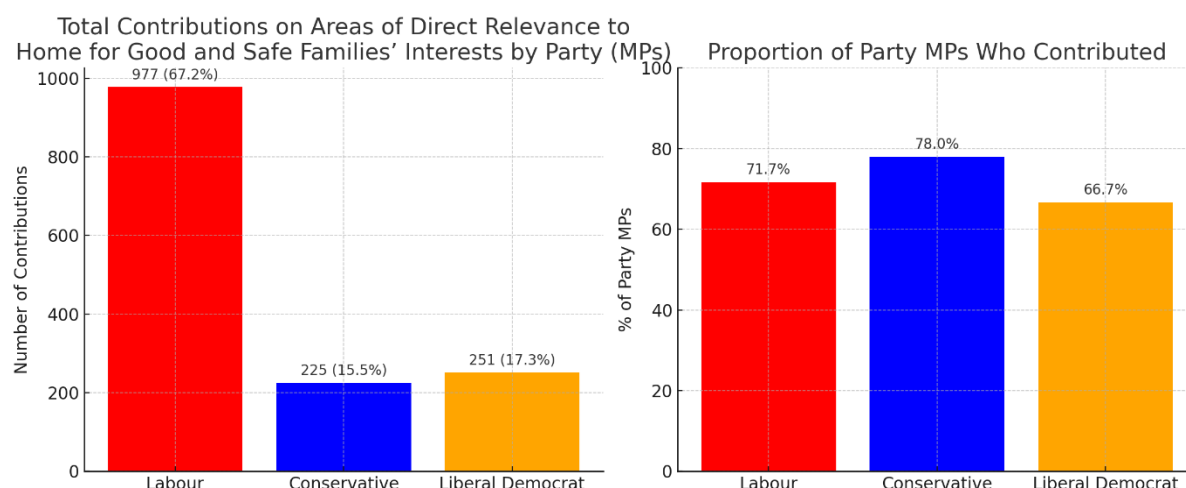
² Lucy Powell MP currently holds a governmental post as Leader of the House of Commons and Lord President of the Council, we have kept her contributions as this role is outside the areas of direct relevance to Home for Good and Safe Families' interest.

³ The "frontbench" refers to MPs who hold official positions as government ministers or shadow minister, typically seated on the front rows in the House of Commons.

Conservative

From Conservative MPs, Rebecca Smith MP⁴ (18 contributions) focused on adoption and permanence, particularly post-adoption support and care leavers - often highlighting the importance of stable transitions to adulthood, including through supported lodgings. Both Danny Kruger MP and Gregory Stafford MP (10 contributions each) raised concerns around adoption and domestic abuse.

Volume and spread of contributions by party



The first chart shows the total number of contributions made by MPs from each major party on all areas of interest to Home for Good and Safe Families. Unsurprisingly, Labour MPs made the largest number of contributions, 977 in total, accounting for 67% of all contributions made in the Commons. This reflects their position as the governing party, as well as broad backbench involvement across issues like fostering, kinship care, adoption, and child poverty.

Interestingly, despite holding fewer seats overall, Liberal Democrat MPs made 251 contributions, slightly more than the 225 made by Conservative MPs. The Liberal Democrats' volume was driven by a small number of highly active contributors, particularly Munira Wilson MP and Josh Babarinde MP.

The second chart shows the proportion of each party's MPs who contributed to related debates. Here, Conservative MPs had the highest engagement rate, with 78% of their MPs contributing at least once. Labour followed closely at 72%, and Liberal Democrats at 67%.

This highlights a key distinction: while Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs made the greatest volume of contributions, Conservative engagement was broader across their parliamentary party, with more of their MPs participating, even if less frequently. This

⁴ Member of the APPG on Adoption and Permanence

suggests a pattern of targeted but widely shared interest among Conservatives, versus more intensive advocacy by fewer individuals among the Liberal Democrats.

Most Peer Contributions by Party

In the first year of the new Labour Government, a number of Peers played a significant role in scrutinising areas of interest to Home for Good and Safe Families, contributing regularly to debates and oral questions in the House of Lords. Their interventions shows a depth of expertise across adoption, fostering, kinship care, child poverty, domestic abuse, loneliness, supported lodgings, and SGOs.

Labour Peer	Contributions	Conservative Peer	Contributions	Lib Dem/Crossbench Peer	Contributions
Baroness Lister	16	Baroness Berridge	14	Baroness Tyler	14
Lord Watson	11	The Earl of Effingham	8	Lord Meston	9
Baroness Blake	10	Lord Young	8	Lord Hampton	7
		Lord Farmer	8	Lord Russell	7
		Baroness Sanderson	8		

With 16 contributions, Baroness Ruth Lister of Burtersett (Labour) was the most active and consistent Peer contributing to debates on areas Home for Good and Safe Families are interested in. A distinguished academic and former Director of the Child Poverty Action Group, she brought expertise to parliamentary discussions. During a Lords debate on 19 June 2025 concerning child poverty, she delivered a sharp critique of current policy:

“A stark illustration of the multiple and severe harms... caused by poverty, and ... the benefit cap and the two-child limit.”⁵

Labour

Among Labour Peers, Lord Watson of Invergowrie⁶ (11 contributions) focused on permanence, while Baroness Blake of Leeds (10 contributions) highlighted local authority responsibilities and the link between poverty and safeguarding.

Conservative

Baroness Berridge⁷ (14 contributions) was the most active Conservative Peer, often speaking on adoption and family law. The Earl of Effingham, Lord Young of Cookham, and Lord Farmer (8 contributions each) focused on early intervention and family

⁵ Baroness Lister of Burtersett, *Child Poverty: Benefit Cap*, House of Lords debate, 22 October 2024, col. E3647396-21B6-41C9-8FEF-67AEF47EDDEA. [Hansard](#).

⁶ Member of the APPG on Adoption and Permanence

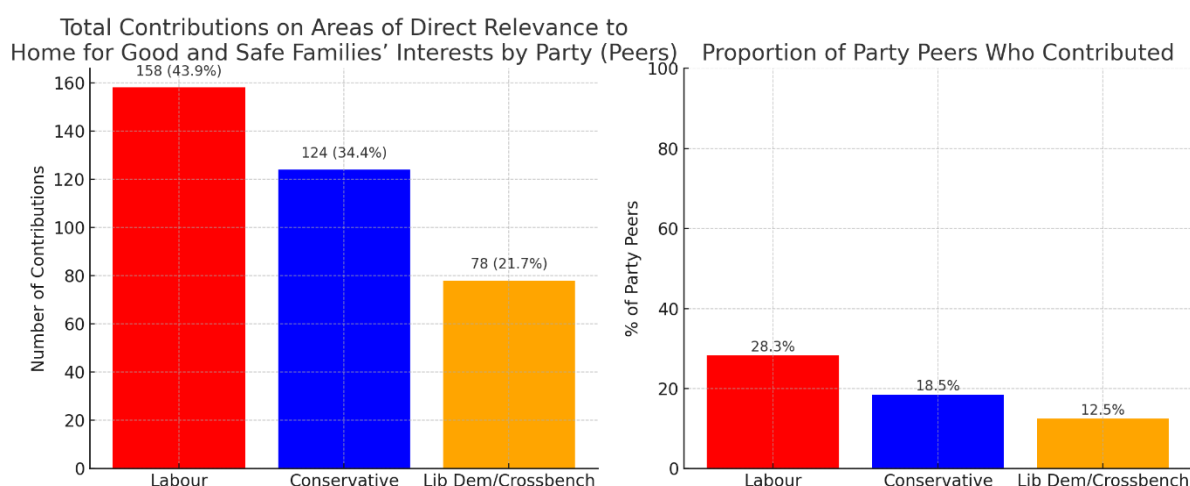
⁷ Officer of the APPG on Adoption and Permanence

stability, with Lord Farmer⁸ specifically advocating for family hubs to strengthen families and reduce reliance on statutory care. Baroness Sanderson of Welton (5 contributions) addressed the needs of care-experienced children, especially around transition to adulthood.

Liberal Democrat

From the Liberal Democrat and Crossbench benches, Baroness Tyler of Enfield (14 contributions) was a leading voice on care reform and kinship care, particularly in the context of children’s mental health. Lord Meston (9 contributions) spoke on legal safeguards and support for special guardians. Lord Hampton, Lord Russell of Liverpool⁹, and others added crossbench insight on trauma-informed care and amplifying care-experienced voices.

Volume and spread of contributions by party



In the House of Lords, Labour Peers made the highest number of contributions, with 158 mentions, accounting for 44% of total peer engagement on areas of interest to Home for Good and Safe Families.

Conservative Peers made 124 contributions, or 34% of the total, with leading voices including Baroness Berridge and Lord Farmer.

The Liberal Democrat and Crossbench¹⁰ group, though smaller in volume, still made 78 contributions (22%), with standout contributions from Baroness Tyler of Enfield and Lord Meston, reflecting strong expertise on care reform and children’s rights.

When measuring engagement relative to each group’s size in the Lords:

⁸ Member of the APPG on Adoption and Permanence

⁹ Member of the APPG on Adoption and Permanence

¹⁰ Crossbench Peers are independent members of the House of Lords who do not take a party whip and sit on the benches that cross the chamber, contributing expertise without party alignment.

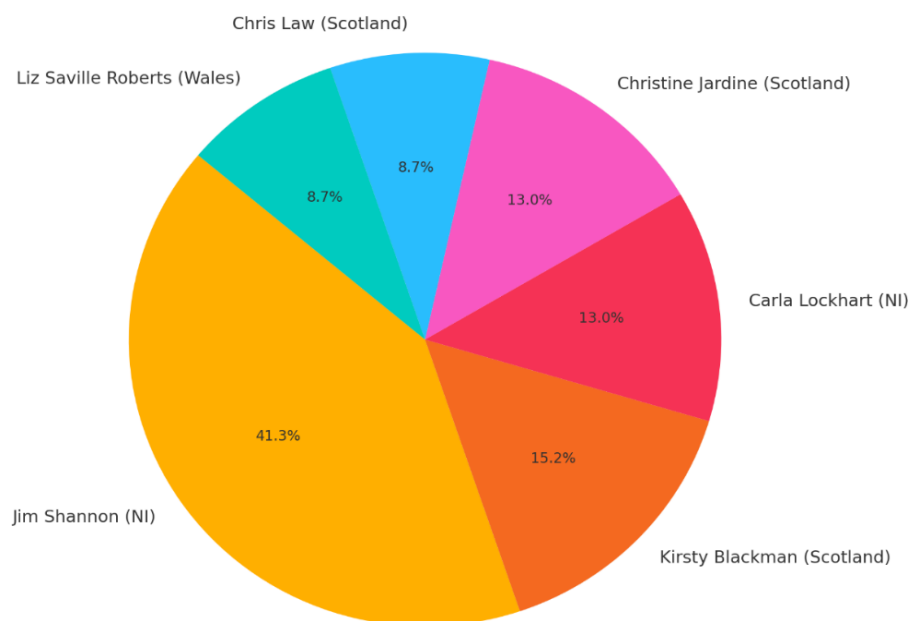
- Labour had the highest participation rate, with 28% (60 of 212 Peers) contributing.
- Conservatives followed with 19% (53 of 286 Peers).
- Lib Dem/Crossbench Peers had the lowest proportional engagement, with only 13% (32 of 257) participating.

This data shows that Labour Peers not only contributed the most but also demonstrated the broadest engagement across their group, highlighting the party's continued focus on social care. Conservative engagement was more selective but still visible across key debates, while contributions from the Liberal Democrat and Crossbench group - independent Peers with specialist expertise - were fewer but more focused.

Nations & Devolved Context

Children's social care is a devolved matter, meaning MPs from Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland do not have legislative authority over this area within their own nations. Even so, 31 MPs and Peers from the devolved nations made 131 contributions in Westminster debates on children's social care, child poverty, loneliness, and domestic

Top MPs from Devolved Nations – Contributions on Children's Social Care (July 2024–June 2025)



abuse.

Jim Shannon MP, a Northern Ireland representative, was one of the most active non-English MPs, regularly raising care-related issues in his contributions:

“Let’s get this right for the children of today - the parents of tomorrow.”¹¹

Overall, MPs from Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland accounted for just 6% of all contributions, despite holding 17% of seats in the House of Commons. This underrepresentation reflects the devolved nature of children's social care, with policy decisions largely made by the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru, and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

However, while these MPs cannot legislate directly on children's social care in their own jurisdictions, their engagement in Westminster debates shows a strong interest in

¹¹ Jim Shannon MP, *Westminster Hall debate on Care Settings: Right to Maintain Contact*, 24 June 2025, column 212 WH niassembly.gov.uk+3theyworkforyou.com+3hansard.parliament.uk+3.

cross-border learning and in how UK-wide policies affect children and families. Notably, nearly one in five contributions from non-English MPs focused on domestic abuse, highlighting that although most powers over domestic abuse are devolved, important areas like welfare remain reserved to Westminster.

Topic-by-Topic Breakdown

Adoption

In the first year of the new Labour Government, adoption was referenced in **131 parliamentary contributions by 74 MPs and Peers**. The most frequently referenced issue was the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund (ASGSF), which was raised in nearly a quarter of all references. Although the fund was renewed, concerns were raised across parties about reduced access and the impact of delayed government communication.

Labour	Contributions	Conservative	Contributions	Liberal Democrat	Contributions	Crossbench	Contributions
Josh Newbury MP	4	Rebecca Smith MP	8	Munira Wilson MP	9	Lord Hannay	2
Rachael Maskell MP	4	Greg Smith MP	3	Steve Darling MP	8	Lord Meston	2
Justin Madders MP	4	Gregory Stafford MP	2	Tom Gordon MP	7		
Liam Conlon MP	4			Lisa Smart MP	5		
Lucy Powell MP	3						

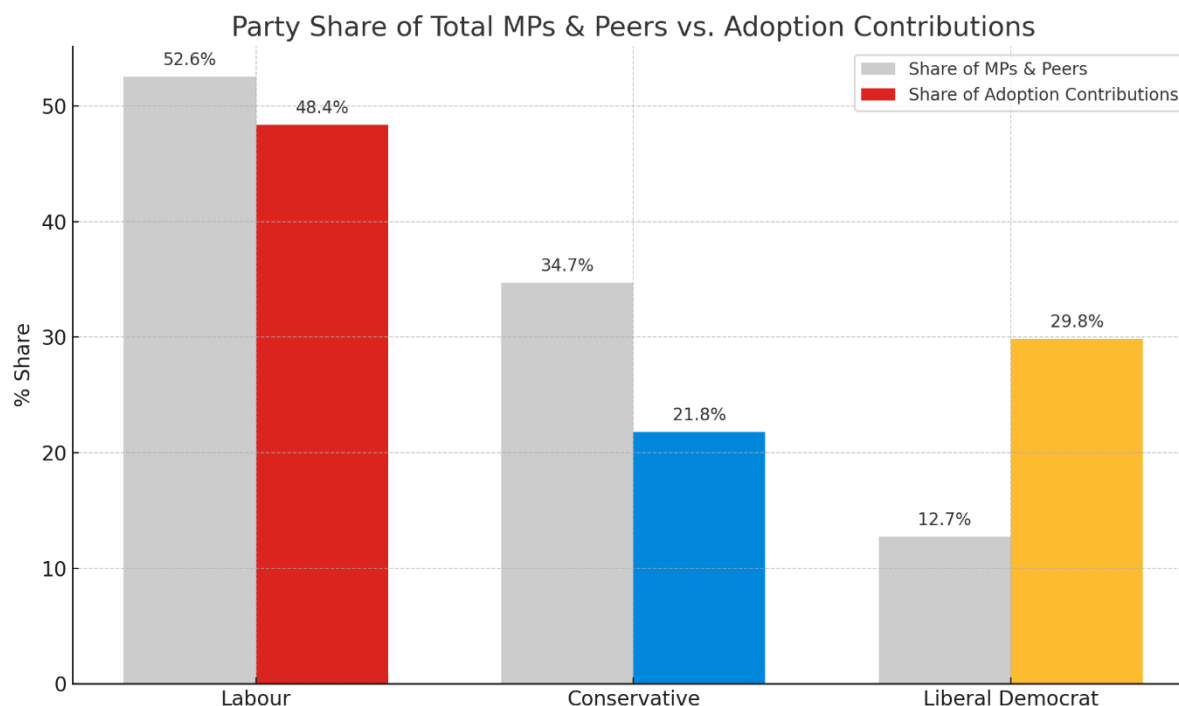
The table above shows Labour made the highest number of contributions, reflecting their role in government and active voices like Rachael Maskell MP¹² and Lucy Powell MP.

Conservative engagement was lower overall, though Rebecca Smith MP played a key role, including securing a Westminster hall debate ‘Government support for children in adoptive and kinship placements’.¹³ Liberal Democrats were notably active proportionally, led by Munira Wilson MP, Steve Darling MP, and Tom Gordon MP.

¹² Chair of the APPG on Adoption and Permanence

¹³ House of Commons Library, *Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund*, CDP-2025-0106, 20 May 2025. Available [here](#).

Volume and spread of adoption contributions by party



Labour MPs and Peers made the largest number of contributions in absolute terms, with 60 references to adoption - 48% of the total. While this level of engagement reflects Labour's governing position and broad involvement in shaping the legislative agenda, it is proportionally lower than their overall parliamentary representation, which stands at 53%. This suggests that although adoption is being discussed across the party, it may not be receiving focused attention from a wide range of members.

In contrast, Liberal Democrat parliamentarians made 37 contributions, accounting for 30% of the total - despite holding just 13% of seats across the Commons and Lords. This level of engagement represents a more than twofold overrepresentation, highlighting the party's clear policy focus and the influence of dedicated spokespeople. Notably, Munira Wilson MP has consistently raised adoption in relation to support services and funding mechanisms, including tabling an *Urgent Question* on the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund when the announcement for continuing funding was delayed.¹⁴

Conservative MPs and Peers made 27 contributions, or 22% of the total, which falls well below their combined parliamentary share of 35%. This indicates a more limited level of engagement on adoption policy, with a small number of MPs and Peers, such as Rebecca Smith MP and Lord Farmer, driving the majority of contributions. While the

¹⁴ Munira Wilson MP, Urgent Question to the Secretary of State for Education on the continuation of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund, House of Commons, 1 April 2025. [Hansard](#).

issue is present within Conservative discourse, it does not appear to be a consistent focus.

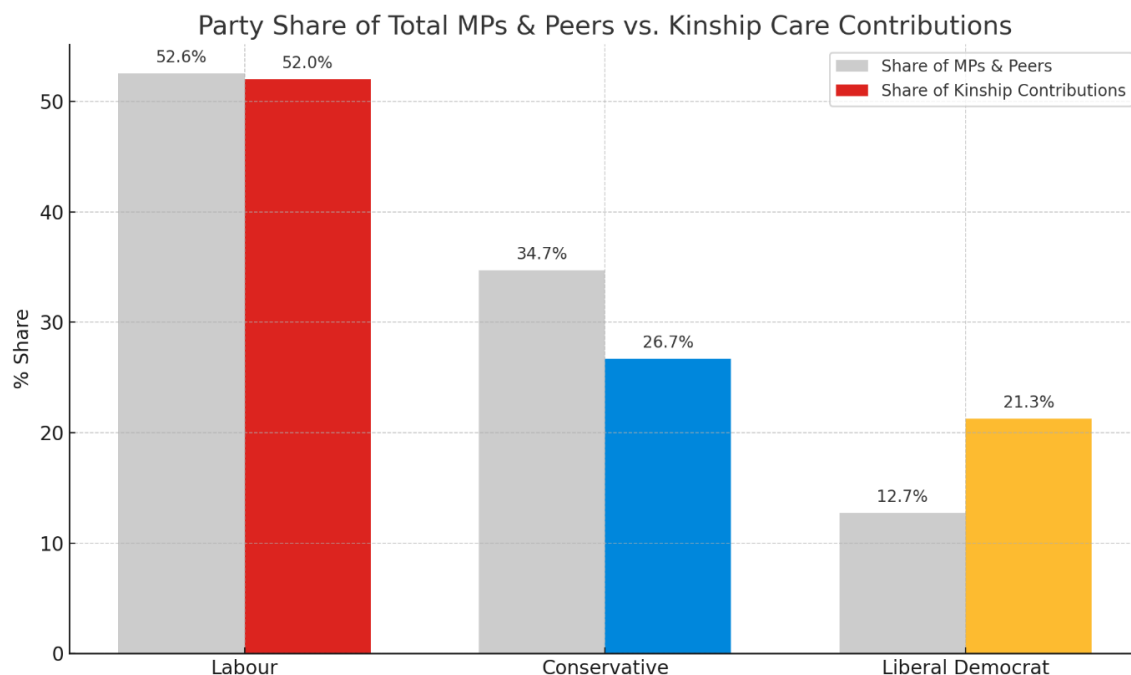
Taken together, the data shows that party size does not necessarily translate into proportional influence or visibility on adoption issues.

Kinship

In the first year of the new Labour Government, **220 parliamentary contributions** referenced kinship care, made by **115 MPs and Peers** across debates, questions, and bill committees. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill accounted for 105 of these contributions, underscoring the growing significance of kinship care within wider reforms to children's welfare and education.

Labour	Contributions	Conservative	Contributions	Liberal Democrat	Contributions	Crossbench	Contributions
Stephen Morgan MP	6	Neil O'Brien MP	4	Munira Wilson MP	22	Lord Hampton	6
Lucy Powell MP	6	Peter Swallow MP	3	Steve Darling MP	4		
Justin Madders MP	5			Lord Storey	2		
Alistair Strathern MP	5			Lord Fox	2		
Baroness Blake	5			Baroness Smith	2		
Catherine Atkinson MP	4			Baroness Tyler	2		
Grahame Morris MP	4			Bobby Dean	2		
Lord Watson	3			Lord Palmer	3		

Volume and spread of kinship contributions by party



When analysing the combined representation of MPs and Peers across parties, it becomes clear that levels of parliamentary engagement on kinship care do not always align with party size.

Labour led in volume with 115 contributions (52%), closely aligning with its 53% share of MPs and Peers. This suggests Labour's engagement on kinship care is consistent with its dominant parliamentary position.

The Conservatives, by contrast, accounted for 27% of contributions despite holding 35% of seats - an underrepresentation that points to less sustained interest across the party, though certain MPs and Peers showed a commitment to kinship care.

Notably, the Liberal Democrats once again exceeded expectations. Despite comprising just 13% of MPs and Peers, they made 21% of kinship care contributions. This level of engagement - nearly double their proportional share - illustrates the party's prioritisation of kinship policy¹⁵, driven by highly active voices such as Munira Wilson MP and Baroness Tyler.

The data highlights that meaningful parliamentary engagement on children's issues does not always scale with party size, and smaller parties can wield considerable influence through focused advocacy.

Fostering

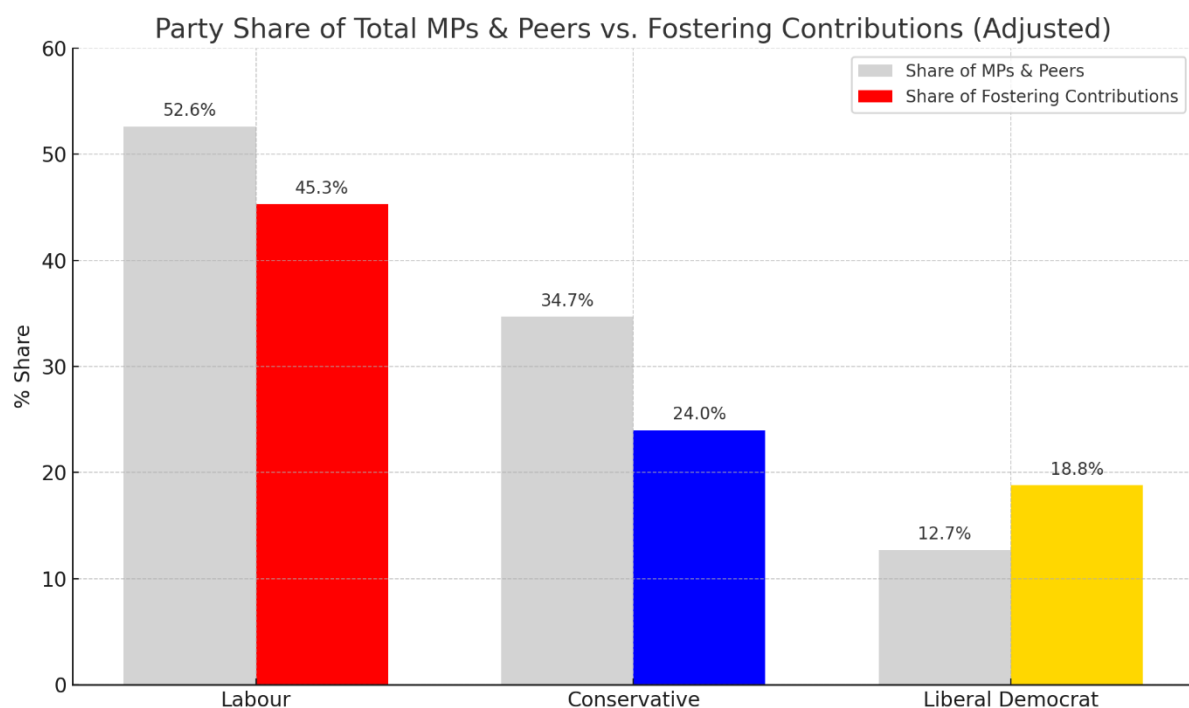
In the first year of the new Labour Government, fostering was referenced **124 times** in parliamentary discussions across both Houses, involving **85 different MPs and Peers**.

¹⁵ Liberal Democrats, *For a Fair Deal: Liberal Democrat Manifesto 2024*, "Care" chapter, available [here](#).

Notably, fostering appeared prominently - 60 times - in debates on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, emphasising its relevance in current policy discourse. An additional 9 mentions arose during the Adoption and Kinship Placements debate, highlighting the topic's connection to placement stability and permanency planning.

Labour	Contributions	Conservative	Contributions	Liberal Democrat	Contributions
Jake Richards MP	4	Lord Young	3	Munira Wilson MP	7
Lord Watson	4	Lord Farmer	2	Steve Darling MP	7
Alistair Strathern MP	3	Rebecca Smith MP	2	Lisa Smart MP	2
John Whitby MP	3				
Justin Madders MP	3				
Stephen Morgan MP	3				
Baroness Blake	3				

Volume and spread of fostering contributions by party



Labour contributions stand at 45%. This suggests that while Labour remains the most vocal party overall on fostering, the issue does not feature as prominently in their parliamentary activity as might be expected given their numerical dominance. The engagement is steady, but perhaps diluted by attention to other areas within the wider social care agenda.

The Conservative Party accounts for 35% of MPs and Peers but contributed only 24% of fostering mentions, indicating an under-engagement with fostering. This may reflect a broader dispersal of attention across other priorities or less emphasis on the topic within their current legislative interests.

In contrast, the Liberal Democrats demonstrate a strong overrepresentation. Despite constituting just 13% of Parliament, they were responsible for 19% of fostering contributions. This highlights how the party has maintained a strong focus on this issue, largely driven by a handful of particularly active MPs.

Special Guardianship Order

In the first year of the new Labour Government, there were **21 parliamentary contributions** referencing SGOs, made by **15 MPs and Peers**. These mentions were fewer in number, but also revealed sustained cross-party attention to the complex legal, financial, and relational dynamics of special guardianship.

Labour	Contributions	Conservative	Contributions	Liberal Democrat	Contributions
Baroness Merron	2	Baroness Berridge	5	Caroline Voaden MP	1
Julie Minns MP	1	Rebecca Smith MP	2	Munira Wilson MP	1
Rachael Maskell MP	1	Caroline Nokes MP	1	Tom Gordon MP	1

It is important to note that the dataset for SGO contributions is relatively small, meaning that caution is needed when drawing firm conclusions from these figures. The limited sample size may not fully capture the breadth of parliamentary interest in SGOs or allow for comparisons across parties.

Supported Lodgings

In the first year of the new Labour Government, there were **5 parliamentary contributions** referencing supported lodgings, made by **4 MPs** across the political spectrum. While the volume of contributions is modest, this reflects early but meaningful cross-party engagement with supported lodgings as a form of semi-independent accommodation for care-experienced young people.

The majority of these mentions were initiated by Home for Good and Safe Families advocacy in this space and the launch of *The Voices of Supported Lodgings: Strong foundations for our future*¹⁶, which raised the profile of supported lodgings in Parliament and highlighted the lived experiences of young people in these arrangements.

¹⁶ *The Voices of Supported Lodgings: Strong Foundations for Our Future*, Home for Good and Safe Families, October 2024. Link [here](#).

Name	Party	Contributions
Rebecca Smith	Conservative	2
Darren Paffey	Labour	1
Ian Sollom	Liberal Democrat	1
Munira Wilson	Liberal Democrat	1

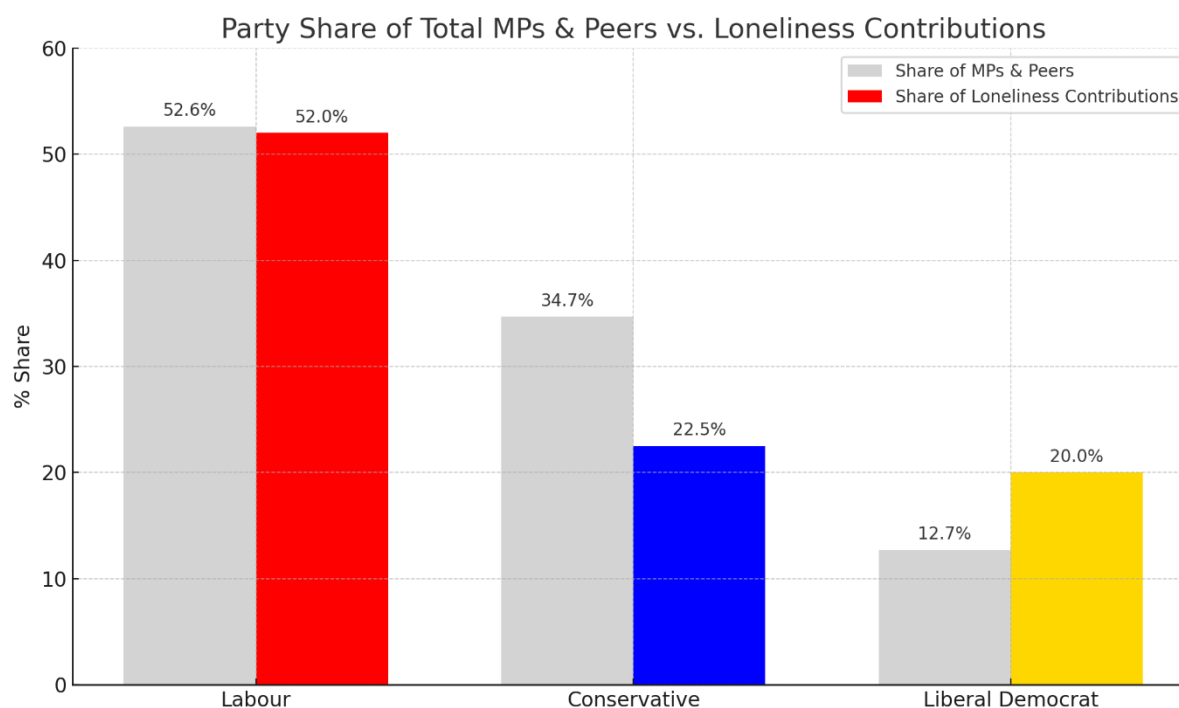
While this year saw the highest number of parliamentary contributions on supported lodgings ever recorded, it is important to note that the data for supported lodgings contributions is limited, so findings should be interpreted with care. The small sample size may not allow for firm conclusions about broader party trends.

Loneliness

In the first year of the new Labour Government, **23 contributions** in Parliament addressed loneliness. These were made by **21 MPs and Peers**. While no single MP or Peer dominated the discussion, a wide range of backbench and peer contributors reflected growing awareness of loneliness as a public health and social care issue.

Labour	Contributions	Conservative	Contributions	Liberal Democrat	Contributions
Baroness Blake	1	Baroness Bottomley	2	Mike Martin MP	1
Baroness Whitaker	1	Dame Caroline Dinenage	1	Gideon Amos MP	1
Chris McDonald MP	1	David Simmonds MP	1	Baroness Hazarika	1
Dan Carden MP	1			Dr Roz Savage MP	1
Emma Lewell-Buck MP	1			Munira Wilson MP	1
Irene Campbell MP	1				
Jack Rankin MP	1				
Josh MacAlister MP	1				
Liam Conlon MP	1				
Lord Rooker MP	1				
Mr Adnan Hussain MP	1				
Mr James Frith MP	1				
Sam Rushworth MP	1				

Volume and spread of loneliness contributions by party



Labour accounted for 52% of all contributions, aligning almost exactly with their proportional representation (53%). This suggests that the issue of loneliness is receiving consistent attention within Labour's broader health and social policy agenda. Contributions came from a diverse group of backbench MPs and Peers, including Baroness Blake, Dan Carden MP, and Josh MacAlister MP.

The Conservative Party contributed 23% of mentions - an underrepresentation of more than 10 percentage points. While there were contributions Baroness Bottomley, this relatively low level of engagement may reflect a lack of consistent focus on loneliness within current Conservative health or care narratives.

By contrast, the Liberal Democrats slightly overperformed. Despite making up just 13% of MPs and Peers, they were responsible for 20% of loneliness contributions. This indicates a notable focus on the topic, possibly linked to the party's historic emphasis on wellbeing and community-centred policy.

However, it's clear that no single parliamentarian is driving the conversation on loneliness. Instead, contributions tend to be one-off interventions from a wide range of MPs and Peers, suggesting broad but relatively shallow engagement with the issue across parties.

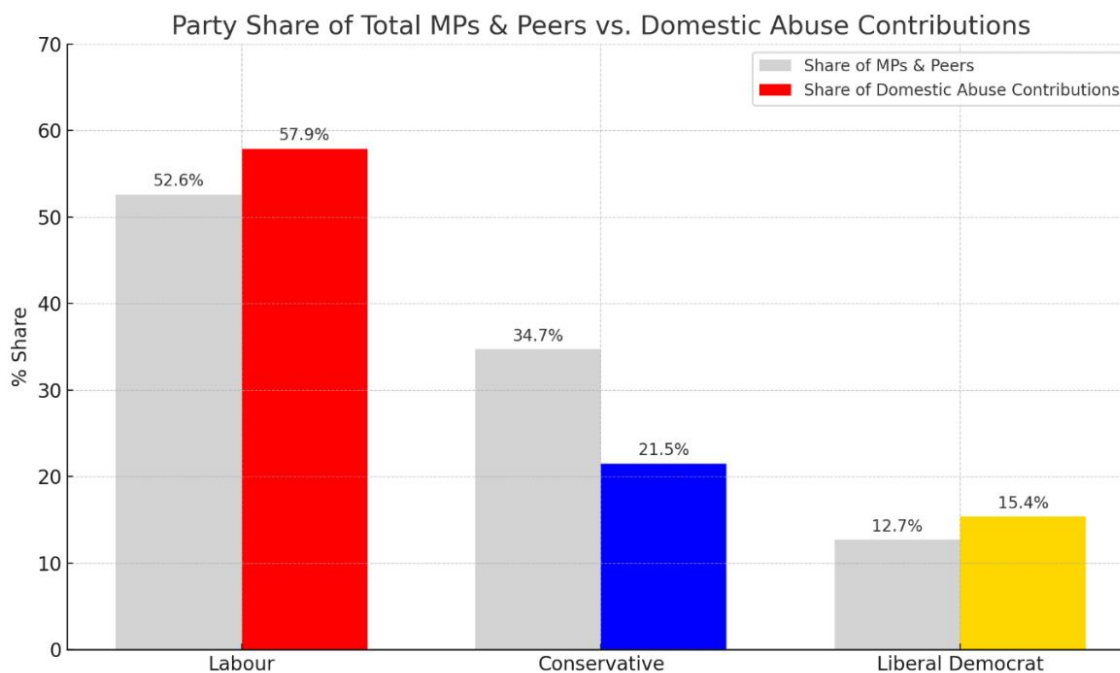
Domestic Abuse

In the first year of the new Labour Government, there were **572 parliamentary contributions** referencing domestic abuse, made by **270 MPs and Peers**. Discussions

addressed a range of themes including criminal justice, victim protection, refugee funding, and the long-term impacts of abuse on women and children.

Labour	Contributions	Conservative	Contributions	Liberal Democrat	Contributions	Crossbench / Green	Contributions
Sarah Sackman MP	19	Mims Davies MP	5	Josh Babarinde MP	29	Baroness Gohir	5
Dr Marie Tidball MP	14	Rebecca Paul MP	5	Sarah Olney MP	4	Baroness Bennett	4
Naz Shah MP	13	Rebecca Smith MP	4	Baroness Doocey	4		
Emily Darlington MP	10	Dame Karen Bradley MP	4	Baroness Burt	3		
Kim Leadbetter MP	9	Danny Krugar MP	4	Lisa Smart	3		
Lord Ponsonby	9	Luke Taylor MP	4	Sarah Dyke	3		
Baroness Lister	4	Gregory Stafford MP	4	Lord Marks	3		
Baroness Taylor	4	Ms Nusrat Ghani MP	4	Vikki Slade	3		
				Liz Jarvis	3		

Volume and spread of domestic abuse contributions by party



Labour accounted for 58% of contributions - exceeding their 53% parliamentary representation. This slight overrepresentation demonstrates Labour's strong and sustained focus on domestic abuse. There was notable advocacy from newer MPs including Sarah Sackman MP, Dr Marie Tidball MP, and Naz Shah MP. Labour Peers also played a significant role, with contributions from Baroness Lister and Lord Ponsonby highlighting systemic challenges in victim protection and legal processes.

By contrast, the Conservative Party underperformed on this issue. Although they comprise 35% of MPs and Peers, they accounted for just 22% of domestic abuse mentions - an underrepresentation. This signals a gap in visibility and leadership on this issue within Conservative parliamentary activity. While some MPs such as Mims Davies MP and Edward Argar MP made repeated interventions, the overall engagement was dispersed and limited.

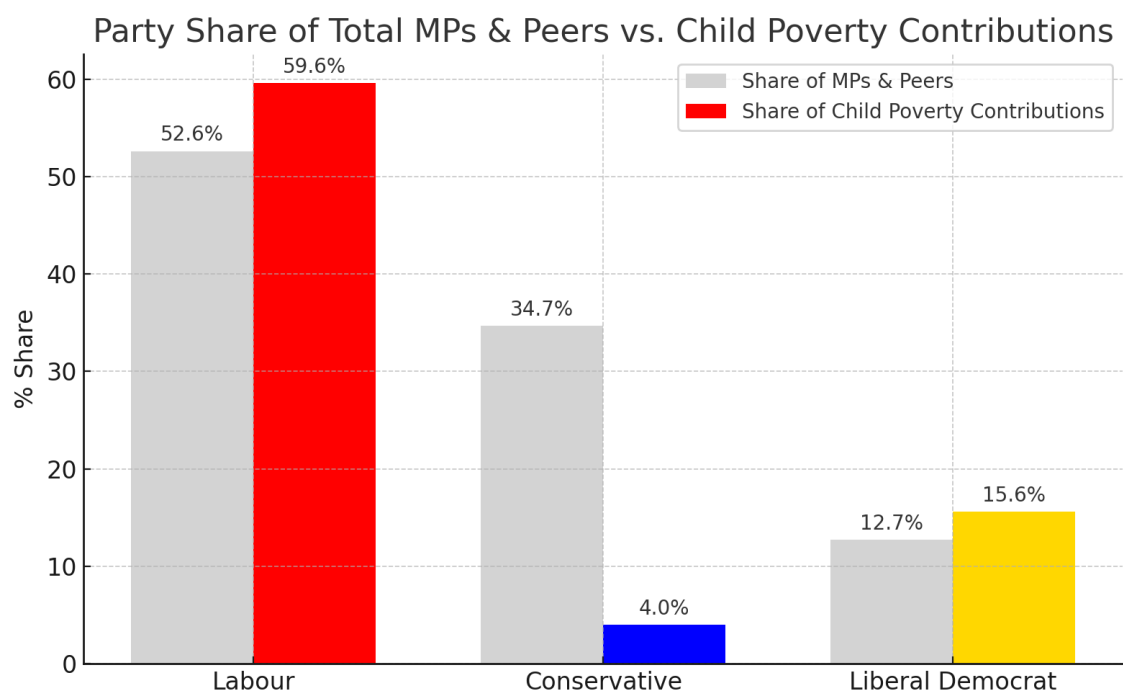
The Liberal Democrats were overrepresented. Despite holding just 13% of seats, they made 15% of contributions. This is largely due to the sustained advocacy of Josh Babarinde MP, who alone accounted for 29 mentions - more than any other MP. Peers such as Baroness Doocey and Lord Marks also reinforced the party's engagement, reflecting a clear strategic focus on violence against women and vulnerable communities.

Child Poverty

In the first year of the new Labour Government, there were **548 parliamentary contributions** referencing child poverty, made by **274 different MPs and Peers**.

Labour	Contributions	Conservative	Contributions	Liberal Democrat	Contributions
Lucy Powell MP	13	David Simmonds MP	3	Munira Wilson MP	13
Baroness Lister	9	Suella Braverman MP	2	Liz Jarvis MP	6
Torsten Bell MP	9	Mr Richard Holden MP	2	Tim Farron MP	3
				Sarah Olney MP	3
				Dr Danny Chambers MP	3

Volume and spread of child poverty contributions by party



Labour dominated the parliamentary discourse, accounting for a striking 60% of contributions - well above their 53% representation. This overrepresentation highlights Labour's sustained commitment to tackling child poverty and holding the government to account on this issue¹⁷. Frequent contributors included Lucy Powell MP (13 contributions), alongside strong advocacy from Peers such as Baroness Lister and Lord Sikka.

The Conservative Party, by contrast, accounted for just 4% of child poverty mentions despite holding 35% of parliamentary seats. This suggests a significant lack of

¹⁷ Labour Party, *Labour's Plan to Get Britain's Future Back: General Election Manifesto 2024*, June 2024, see section on "Families and children." Available [here](#).

engagement with the issue at parliamentary level. Only a handful of MPs, including David Simmonds MP and Suella Braverman MP, contributed to these discussions, indicating that the issue is not a significant focus within the Conservative benches.

The Liberal Democrats made 16% of contributions, almost exactly in line with their 13% representation. Their engagement has been steady, with particularly active voices such as Munira Wilson MP (13 contributions), Liz Jarvis MP, and Tim Farron MP. While not overrepresented, their contribution level indicates that child poverty remains a priority issue for the party.

Conclusion

This report provides a detailed snapshot of parliamentary engagement with children's social care and related issues during the first year of the Labour Government (July 2024–June 2025). Drawing on 1,973 contributions across Hansard debates, oral questions, and bill committees, it captures both the scale and character of political attention to children and families across party lines.

The findings reveal a strong concentration of activity among Labour MPs and Peers, reflecting their position in government and the policy priority given to care reform.

Liberal Democrat parliamentarians, despite their small numbers, demonstrated consistently high engagement, particularly on issues such as adoption, fostering, kinship care, and domestic abuse.

In contrast, Conservative contributions were lower across most topics, suggesting that children's social care may not have featured as prominently within their current scrutiny agenda. However, it is notable that Conservative MPs demonstrated the highest engagement rate overall, with 78% of their MPs contributing at least once. This indicates that while individual contributions may have been fewer, a broad base of Conservative MPs showed some level of interest or involvement in these debates.

Notably, this analysis also points to gaps in political leadership. The absence of a Conservative spokesperson on children and families contributed to a lack of sustained opposition focus on these areas.

The data presented here is intended to inform Home for Good and Safe Families future advocacy and political engagement. It also highlights the importance of sustained, cross-party attention to the experiences of children in care and the families who support them. As Parliament enters its second year under Labour leadership, opportunities remain to further engagement across all of the topics highlighted in this report.