Welcome to Fostering Support Matters

Fostering Support really Matters when, just at just the time you really need them, your Supervising Social Worker, their manager and even your Fostering friends must take a step back.

Foster Carers that we have helped, talk of feeling judged guilty before they have had a chance to put their version of events. That although they agree children must firstly be believed and a full investigation must be completed, fear and dread of what might happen next stop them sleeping, eating, unable to think straight.

We can ensure that you don’t go through this alone. We will keep up telephone support from the very start. We will contact your Fostering Service and explain about your membership and your right to independent support of your choosing, asking them to cooperate with us, quoting appropriate National Standards and reassuring them that, they will not be charged for the support you will receive.

The investigation will be overseen by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the outcome will be fed-back to a senior manager within your Fostering Service. The Local Authority or the Agency will then need to look at the findings and decide themselves what they need to do next about your Registration.

As an FSM member we will be with you every step of the way. Initial complaint, Police Investigation, LADO outcome, Fostering Service investigation, report writing and presentation to Panel; even appeal if necessary. You have the right to see the Panel report and respond to it in your own words. Fostering Support Matters will write that report with you, using evidence from your Annual Reviews, Training and Supervision Records to compare with National Fostering Standards. We will advise you on financial matters and continually chase outcomes to minimise the trauma involved for you and your family.

Fostering Panel’s job is to recommend whether, ‘on the balance of probability’ you should be reapproved, or if it’s in everyone’s best interest that your household is Deregistered. Remember, you can access Fostering Support Matters expertise any day of the week, 52 weeks of the year. 1:4 Fostering Households are subject to an Allegation at any one time. Don’t get out, get insurance, we are here for you.

*Debra Gibbs*



Fostering Support Matters backs the Bill brought to The House of Commons by Labour MP Josh McAlister

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# MacAlister bill could see social media companies banned from harvesting under-16s data

15 October 2024  1 min read [Fiona Simpson](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/authors/fiona-simpson/) [Education](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/category/cyp-now/disciplines/education) [Health](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/category/cyp-now/disciplines/health) [Children's Services](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/category/cyp-now/disciplines/childrens-services)

MP Josh MacAlister, who authored the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care, is urging the government to back a bill which would see social media companies exclude under-16s from algorithms designed to make content addictive to users.

Josh MacAlister is MP for Whitehaven and Workington - UK Parliament

MacAlister is behind the safer phones bill, a private member’s bill set to be discussed in the House of Commons this week, which has been backed by former children’s minister Conservative MP Kit Malthouse and education committee chair Helen Hayes.

The bill would see the age of "internet adulthood" raised from 13 to 16. This would mean under-16s would need a parent or legal guardian's permission to use social apps like TikTok and Instagram.

### [**Online Safety Bill: What's included and the impact on children**](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/features/online-safety-bill-whats-included-and-the-impact-on-children)

### [**Digital Safeguarding Special Report**](https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/features/digital-safeguarding-special-report)

It would also ban such companies from harvesting the data of under-16s meaning they would not be targeted by content farmed out to users by personalised algorithms designed to keep them on specific sites and apps.

Another key factor of the bill would be to make phone bans in schools a legal requirement by making existing guidance a statutory duty for school leaders.

It would also give Ofcom a specific mandate to protect children’s interests and commit to a review about the sale of mobile phones to under-16s and how the technology could be adapted to keep children safer.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting praised the plans, writing on X: “Given the impact of smartphone use and addiction on the mental health of children and young people and the concerns from parents, this is a really timely debate.”

MacAlister is set to meet Technology Secretary Peter Kyle this week to discuss potential government backing for measures in the bill.

A government spokesperson said: “We all want to find the best way of ensuring children are kept safe while also benefiting from the latest digital technology.

“The Online Safety Act will introduce strong safeguards for children, preventing them from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content. This will include requiring companies to check the age of children so that parents can have peace of mind about the safety of their children online.

“The vast majority of schools already handle the use of mobile phones effectively, including with bans. Legislating for an outright ban would simply remove the autonomy from school leaders who know their pupils and their communities best.”

MacAlister was [elected as MP for Whitehaven and Workington in May](file:////MacAlister%2520is%2520behind%2520the%2520safer%2520phones%2520bill,%2520a%2520private%2520member’s%2520bill%2520set%2520to%2520be%2520discussed%2520in%2520the%2520House%2520of%2520Commons%2520this%2520week,%2520which%2520has%2520been%2520backed%2520by%2520former%2520children’s%2520minister%2520Conservative%2520MP%2520Kit%2520Malthouse%2520and%2520education%2520committee%2520chair%2520Helen%2520Hayes.%2520The%2520bill%2520would%2520see%2520the%2520age%2520of%2520%22internet%2520adulthood%22%2520raised%2520from%252013%2520to%252016.%2520This%2520would%2520mean%2520under-16s%2520would%2520need%2520a%2520parent%2520or%2520legal%2520guardian's%2520permission%2520to%2520use%2520social%2520apps%2520like%2520TikTok%2520and%2520Instagram.%2520It%2520would%2520also%2520ban%2520such%2520companies%2520from%2520harvesting%2520the%2520data%2520of%2520under-16s%2520meaning%2520they%2520would%2520not%2520be%2520targeted%2520by%2520content%2520farmed%2520out%2520to%2520users%2520by%2520personalised%2520algorithms%2520designed%2520to%2520keep%2520them%2520on%2520specific%2520sites%2520and%2520apps.%2520Another%2520key%2520factor%2520of%2520the%2520bill%2520would%2520be%2520to%2520make%2520phone%2520bans%2520in%2520schools%2520a%2520legal%2520requirement%2520by%2520making%2520existing%2520guidance%2520a%2520statutory%2520duty%2520for%2520school%2520leaders.%2520It%2520would%2520also%2520give%2520Ofcom%2520a%2520specific%2520mandate%2520to%2520protect%2520children’s%2520interests%2520and%2520commit%2520to%2520a%2520review%2520about%2520the%2520sale%2520of%2520mobile%2520phones%2520to%2520under-16s%2520and%2520how%2520the%2520technology%2520could%2520be%2520adapted%2520to%2520keep%2520children%2520safer.%2520Health%2520Secretary%2520Wes%2520Streeting%2520praised%2520the%2520plans,%2520writing%2520on%2520X:%2520) and was previously chair of Foundations, the What Works Centre for Children and Families.

Before chairing the Care Review, he was chief executive of social work training charity Frontline and a former teacher.

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# Our friends from Simply Fostering includes our service in their consultancy package

# FOSTERING SUPPORT MATTERS

## COMPLAINT OR ALLEGATION SUPPORT

[Fostering Support Matters](https://fosteringsupport.co.uk/) is an Independent Organisation with 25 years’ experience, able to help and advise you in the likelihood that at some stage in your Fostering Career, you will be subject to a complaint or allegation.

Despite best practice 1:4 Foster Carers are suspended from taking placements whilst a child protection investigation is conducted. Without support, this often results in Carers’ Resignation or Fostering Service De-Registration.

Sign up now for Independent Support and peace of mind.