20.5.2015

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP

Secretary of State for Education

Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3BT

Dear Minister,

**Early Years Education and Care**

TACTYC members wish to congratulate you, and your colleagues, on your re-appointment to the Department for Education. As you can see, we have copied Edward Timpson and Sam Gyimah in to this letter, as it appears that responsibility for the early years is shared between the ministerial team.

As an organisation dedicated to the training and education of all involved in the provision of high quality early education for children from birth to seven, we are writing to ask how the responsibilities for early years education and care, including the initial training and professional development of staff, will be divided between you. We note that Mr Gyimah now has an extended role which includes early years education and the Early Years Foundation Stage, together with the quality and regulation of the childcare workforce, while Mr Timpson is responsible for the curriculum for children from birth to five and their early learning and development.

We are concerned that care and education should be provided as a unified whole, and that the drive for affordable childcare should not be pursued at the expense of the best interests of young children and their learning. When we met with Sam Gyimah a few months ago, the civil servants in attendance asked that we might meet again in order to take forward the discussion on training and other issues. I would be grateful to know who we should now best approach with the evidence-based policy advice which we developed in collaboration with The British Education Research Association Early Years Special Interest Group.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Payler, Chair, TACTYC

cc Edward TImpson MP

 Sam Gyimah MP