Dear [insert your MP’s name],

I am one of your constituents, and I am employed in a local early years childcare setting. I am writing to you as a member of Community trade union to make you aware of the launch of our Early Years Charter.

There has recently been significant media coverage about pre-schools, nurseries and early years provision, but I believe much of this coverage has failed to tell the whole story.

There is an ongoing recruitment crisis in the early years sector, and if the current lack of support continues, soon there will be national shortages of childcare placements. This will mean some parents will find it impossible to return to work and lead to an even further rise in economic inactivity. We support the recent government decision to expand the 30-hour free childcare offer to children under the age of three. However, if the government is serious about delivering these services, then there will need to be serious and sustained investment in the early years workforce. To ensure that these reforms can be delivered safely and effectively, there will need to be a thorough and robust plan put in place by the current government.

Across the country income continues to fall, staff wages are stagnating, and professional development has stalled. The sector is in desperate need of investment in its staff and settings. We need improved wages and commitments to professional development like those seen in other UK and EU nations. We need to be treated and viewed as the professionals we are. This is essential if we are to achieve our goal of being high-wage, high-skill economy.

That is why I am asking for your support on the aims of our Early Years Charter, including:

* Recognition of the specialised work that early years staff and nannies undertake.
* Increased funding for early years settings that adequately covers the cost of provision.
* Improved wages for staff in recognition of the specialised work they do and to support recruitment and retention into the sector.
* Raising the profile of nannies and other early years professionals to address the recruitment and retention crisis.
* Streamlined professional development opportunities for staff.

I would welcome to meet with you and discuss your support further. You can find out more about the Early Years Charter by visiting <https://community-tu.org/early-years-charter/>.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[Insert your name].