

# **Child of the North APPG Meeting**

**23 June 2026**

## **Attendance:**

Emma Lewell (Chair), Kim Johnson, Mary Kelly Foy, Rachael Maskell, Lee Pitcher, Pamela Qualter, Wahida Walibhai, Sam Hugh-Jones, Kimberly Petersen, Jill Thompson, Ashish Kumar, Yu Wei C., Victoria Gray, Aisha Adeyoola, Hayley Murphy, Alyssa Cole, Nil Guzelgun, Katie Barron, Rosina Read, Alexis Darby, Ciaran Dowling

## **Overview**

This meeting marked the launch of the Child of the North's APPG latest report, '[Building a Preventative Mental Health System for Children and Young People](#)', published by Health Equity North.

## **Summary of meeting**

Emma Lewell MP, chair of the APPG, introduced the report, establishing why change is needed and how, as policymakers, APPG members can continue to fight for those most vulnerable.

Professor Pamela Qualter presented some of the key findings of the report, leading an engaged discussion on what is working and how politicians can push for targeted support. She asked MPs in attendance what their thoughts were on building preventative support based on what they were seeing across their constituencies.

Academics in attendance fed in some of their research and thoughts.

Alyssa Cole, lived experience representative, shared her personal experiences of growing up in the North and called on policymakers to not just recognise, but act on the link between child poverty and mental health. She also discussed the impact of single-parents receiving and not receiving payment from their absent parent and some of the issues with benefits received by single-parent families.

Emma Lewell MP concluded the meeting and invited the group for a photo.

**Ends**