Dear Nicola,

**Re: Levi \*\*\*\*\*\*\* Temporary Foster Care Arrangements**

Further to our recent meeting regarding my nephew Levi’s temporary foster care arrangements, we as a family feel compelled to express our concerns in a formal letter.

As a family we are so deeply saddened we were not given the opportunity to care for Levi in any capacity over the past two weeks, and we feel we have been totally overlooked by the department. We are aware the severity surrounding Levi being taken into temporary care but neither Levi’s father nor any of us were involved in the incident.

We are writing to the department to ask to be included and considered in any future arrangements, as it has been confirmed during the meeting Levi will not be returned to live with his mother after the two weeks period as first thought. We do understand there have been further issues identified and we do understand that you are working with Levi’s best interests in mind. However as a family until the meeting on 31st October 2014 we had no idea of the history or the severity of the circumstances either.

We were given false information by Social Service regarding his placement with the Byle family, which is why we didn’t pursue him to stay with us over this period. Levi stayed with us most weekends and we would have thought we were the best options to give his mother the break and space she needed, as we have always supported her.

Now the that the placement has come to light to be unregistered Levi is to be moved again, which will cause further distress to him and involve him being placed with strangers again .We are worried about the effect this will have on him, we are worried he will feel like he has done something wrong or has been abandoned by us, and we are here willing to prove ourselves as the best choice and pleading to be involved in his care plan.

We are trying so hard to have faith in the department and work with you, but when already such a major oversight has happened, which is to Levi’s and our detriment effectively pushing Levi further into a system and further away from a family that love and want to care for him. We are totally committed to working with any department in any capacity and will go through any process what is reasonable for a family to do, in order to keep their much loved child close.

We hope you understand Levi is dearly missed by us all, and the thought of us never seeing him again is too unbearable for any of us to consider. The love we all have for Levi is the motivation behind this letter, not an attempted to attack the department.

We would respectfully request a response to this letter

Yours Sincerely

Emma Kearney