

Mr P Midgley
Drum Runners Community Projects

6778 / 51482

From the desk of the Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health

Dear Mr Midgley

Poor diet and inactive lifestyles are threatening the health and happiness of our children and young people. The link between obesity and preventable illnesses, such as diabetes, coronary heart disease, cancer and depression is undeniable yet many parents are unaware that their child is at risk.

We have heard about the work you do helping children in your neighbourhood live healthier lives and I want to thank you for your commitment. Like thousands of community-spirited people across the country you are already making a big difference.

Without concerted action now, our country's children will substantially increase their risk of diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and depression - and reduce their life expectancy significantly.

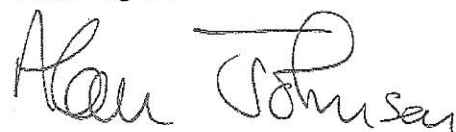
I am writing to you with news of a new initiative that is bringing together people in communities, local healthcare workers, teachers, charities, government agencies, the media and industry in a national coalition to help children achieve a healthier future.

The new initiative is called Change4Life and its aim is to help families become more active, eat better and live longer. Change4Life will be launched to the general public early in 2009. Our priority today is to ask people like you to add your support. I believe that your experience and energy will be crucial to the success of Change4Life.

I would like to invite you to join in and become a local Change4Life partner by registering your interest at www.nhs.uk/Change4Life or by calling 0300 123 3434. We will then be able to keep you updated on progress and tell you about the ways that people in your neighbourhood can benefit from the national Change4Life campaign.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards



Alan Johnson