

You may have seen news coverage earlier this week of an important Government announcement about its commitment to relationship support. This includes a commitment to fund more relationship support for more people who need it and the introduction of a families test across public policy, which is fantastic news. We are yet to understand the detail of the proposals but we are certainly welcoming them.

This is a new announcement, and the Prime Minister was on BBC Breakfast talking about this and there has been other media interest.

You may wonder whether this is really going to make a difference to people in need. Relate's response is that we are very much welcoming this week's announcements, but that we aren't saying this will transform every relationship in the country, however it is an important step in the right direction. In terms of exactly how the extra funding will be used, we don't know the detail yet but we look forward to working with the Government on helping more people in more ways that work.

Ruth Sutherland
Chief Executive Officer
Relate

COMMENT

In response to a speech by the Prime Minister made this week, Ruth Sutherland, Chair of the Relationships Alliance and Chief Executive of Relate, said:

"The announcements are extremely positive steps towards making relationship support more accessible for more people. We wholeheartedly agree that strong and stable relationships are the bedrock of society and it is excellent to hear the Prime Minister affirming the importance of the Government's role in supporting them.

"Every day, we see the impact that troubled relationships have on individuals, couples and families. That's why we're so passionate about equipping more people with the relationship skills that will help to see them through good times and bad.

"The substantial extra funding announced today is extremely welcome and we look forward to working with the Government to help more people in more ways that work, including reaching people through community touch points like health workers and ante natal classes. It's also fantastic news that a families test will be introduced across all public policy to assess impact on families. This is a good day for couples and families and, ultimately, these interventions will reduce the pressure on the public purse of relationship breakdown."

About the Relationships Alliance

The Relationships Alliance is formed of four leading relationship support organisations – Relate, Marriage Care, One Plus One and the Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships. The Relationships Alliance is dedicated to developing strong and stable couple, family and social relationships.