

## PRESS RELEASE

**FROM: Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton Constituency**

**DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011**



### **Fiona Bruce MP meets Lord Rix to highlight the Family Fund opportunities for Congleton constituents**

Fiona Bruce MP met with the former entertainer Brian Rix, now Lord Rix, to help highlight the work of the Family Fund which helps disabled children and their families.

Fiona said:

*'The Family Fund is a registered charity which provides grants to help families with disabled children as they face extra challenges. The fund can help by providing such things as washing machines, cookers, driving lessons, computers and much needed family holidays. It also seeks to provide mobility equipment and supply a break from continuous caring responsibilities.'*

She commented:

*'Carers experience a number of challenges including feelings of isolation, financial pressures and there is often an impact on other family relationships. The Family Fund is supported by government funding of £27 million a year and the Government is committed to maintaining this sum over the next four years. However, many people do not know about the Family Fund and I want every family with a disabled child or children in my constituency to know about it so that they can apply for the help which families caring for disabled children need so much. This is why I am campaigning to highlight the work of the Family Fund'.*

Both Lord Rix and Fiona Bruce are particularly keen to recognise the invaluable contribution which grandparents make to family life.

Lord Rix, who has a grandchild with Downs Syndrome said:

*'There are 200,000 grandparents caring for their grandchildren and half of them are caring for a disabled grandchild - a very onerous task'.*

Fiona Bruce also said:

*'Across the country more and more grandparents are taking on caring roles. I believe they should be recognised and appreciated.'*

*'The Family Fund is open to grandparents to apply for practical support to help them, just as much as parents. Often grandparents have their own health difficulties to cope with and their caring role means they can incur higher utility of food bills which can also be a burden. I also want them to know about the Family Fund and how it can help them.'*