

NSPCC BRIEFING: APPRENTICESHIPS, SKILLS, CHILDREN AND LEARNING BILL SECOND READING – HOUSE OF COMMONS

The NSPCC has previously endorsed the need for legislation on Children’s Trusts having said; “The NSPCC therefore recommends a standard legal framework for all Children’s Trusts to ensure consistent structures throughout the country”.

In that context we support the draft bill. We would however reiterate two points which relate to implementation.

1. Our view is that legislation is a vital underpinning for this, but that it is also vital that there should be further investment to bring about the cultural and attitudinal changes that are required if children are to receive the best possible services.

Changing cultures and building effective partnerships takes time and requires ongoing investment over the long term.

Professionals coming into contact with children and young people need to fully understand each others roles, they need to work together and reject the ‘silo mentality’ that too often pervades the children’s workforce. Professionals also need to take responsibility for child protection issues and act collaboratively to solve problems and meet the needs of the children they meet.

We would like to see the Government act on this and ensure that examples of best practice and recommendations for effective collaborative working are included in guidance accompanying the legislation.

2. The NSPCC wishes to reiterate the importance of the participation of children and parents in the development, delivery, governance and monitoring of services. Simply ‘listening to’ service users is not sufficient; they must be effectively involved throughout, otherwise there is a very real risk that this will result in no more than tokenistic consultation and ineffective service delivery.

Talking to local people and incorporating their views leads to tailored services that meet the needs of the people on the ground. Local people understand the specific issues facing their community and are an invaluable resource to draw on when designing services to be attractive and effective for the area.

The legislation as currently drafted does not cover these issues. The NSPCC would urge the Government to state how these concerns will be addressed both in terms of guidance accompanying the legislation and the allocation of resources.

Contact for more information

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