

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS ON REPORT

*Tabled up to and including
22 October 2025*

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

After Clause 4

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
LORD MESTON
BARONESS BURT OF SOLIHULL

After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause –

“Child contact centres: training

- (1) Providers of child contact centres and services must ensure all staff and volunteers have undergone accredited training and know how to –
 - (a) detect domestic abuse;
 - (b) respond to disclosure of abuse;
 - (c) work with multiple organisations and agencies with responsibilities for safeguarding.
- (2) Accredited training under subsection (1) must be provided by the National Association of Child Contact Centres.”

Clause 21

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

★ Clause 21, page 39, line 28, at end insert –

- “(e) to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise the disadvantages suffered by looked-after children and relevant young persons.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment strengthens the current duty to be “alert to” the needs of looked-after children by requiring public bodies to have due regard to removing or reducing the disadvantages they face. It builds on awareness by turning it into action, ensuring that understanding leads to measurable improvement. This approach embeds care-experienced voices in decision-making and creates a shared responsibility across agencies, helping to break down silo working and deliver joined-up support.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

★

Clause 21, page 39, line 34, at end insert –

“(2A) A relevant authority exercising the duty under subsection (1) must take reasonable steps to avoid, reduce or otherwise mitigate any adverse impact of its policies and practices on looked-after children and relevant young persons.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that public bodies move beyond being merely aware of care-experienced young people's needs to taking reasonable and practical steps to prevent harm caused by their policies. It complements the cultural aims of the Bill by providing a clear framework for shared action and accountability. By requiring active consideration of how decisions affect care-experienced people, it will amplify their voices, strengthen collaboration, and provide a mechanism to break down silo working across education, health, housing, and social care.

Clause 22

LORD MORAES

Clause 22, page 40, line 8, leave out subsections (1) and (2) and insert –

“(1) If the duty under section 21(1) would require anything of the Secretary of State that is already required by section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2019 (duty regarding the welfare of children), then the duty under section 21(1) does not apply to the Secretary of State.

(2) In the exercise of –

- (a) the duty under section 21(1) of this Act (insofar as it applies), and
- (b) the duty under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2019,

the Secretary of State must ensure that nationality functions in relation to the acquisition of British citizenship by statutory right are distinguished from other nationality and immigration functions.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure there is no duplication of duties on the Secretary of State while ensuring that (i) the duties on corporate parents under section 21(1) concerning the wellbeing of young people include appropriate consideration and attention to matters of nationality rights and other matters of status in the UK; and (ii) it is made clear, for these purposes, that statutory rights

to British citizenship must not be wrongly categorised or treated as if matters of immigration or discretion.

After Clause 27

BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Report: barriers to parental support in the care and wellbeing of critically ill children

- (1) Within twelve months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a report on the barriers preventing parents of critically ill children aged between 29 days and 16 years from being by their children’s bedsides during periods of hospital care and the impact and potential harms this has on children’s care, wellbeing and family life.
- (2) A report laid under subsection (1) must include assessments of –
 - (a) the adequacy of existing measures in facilitating the care, wellbeing and family life of critically ill children aged between 29 days and 16 years by their parents,
 - (b) the barriers facing parents of such children, including –
 - (i) financial pressures,
 - (ii) pressures arising from the parent’s existing or future employment commitments, and
 - (iii) mental health difficulties,
 - (c) options for providing additional support to the parents of such children during periods of hospital care, and
 - (d) the impact such additional support would be likely to have on such children’s care, wellbeing and family life.
- (3) In preparing the report laid under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult –
 - (a) parents of children who have received care in hospital for an extended period,
 - (b) healthcare professionals, and
 - (c) charities and civil society organisations offering support to parents of children receiving care in hospital.
- (4) In preparing a report laid under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must have regard to the UK’s international obligations, including under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989.
- (5) A Minister of the Crown must within the period of 28 Commons sitting days beginning with the laying of a report under subsection (1) make arrangements for a debate on the report by the House of Commons.

- (6) A Minister of the Crown must within the period of 28 Lords sitting days beginning with the laying of a report under subsection (1) make arrangements for a debate on the report by the House of Lords.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on the barriers preventing parents of critically ill children aged between 29 days and 16 years from being by their bedside during periods of hospital care, including financial and workplace pressures, and mental health needs, and the impact this has on the child's care, wellbeing and family life. The amendment would also provide an opportunity for the consideration of that report by each House of Parliament.

BARONESS PENN

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

Guidance on the use of screens and communication with parents and carers in early years settings

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, update the early years foundation stage statutory framework for children aged 0 to 5 in early years settings to include guidance on –
 - (a) the appropriate and safe use of screens and digital technology in early years settings, and
 - (b) effective communication with parents and carers about screen use and digital technology.
- (2) The guidance must draw on advice from education and health professionals, researchers and academics including on the following areas –
 - (a) the benefits, harms or risks of harm associated with the exposure of children of differing ages, including children with special educational needs or disabilities, to screens and other digital devices,
 - (b) the balance between screen-based and non-digital activities for children in early years development and play,
 - (c) age-appropriate limits for screen time for children in early years settings,
 - (d) safeguarding policies for the use of personal devices and other screens in early years settings,
 - (e) the impact of carers' and parents' use of personal devices and screens on child wellbeing and development,
 - (f) the importance of screen-free times and environments, such as during meals, bedtimes, and outdoor play, and
 - (g) practical examples and communication strategies for early years practitioners to share with parents and carers to support healthy screen use and promote positive parent-child interaction, including alternatives such as reading together, helping with daily tasks, and engaging with the natural environment.”

LORD NASH

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Action to prohibit the provision of VPN services to children in the United Kingdom

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must, for the purpose of furthering the protection and wellbeing of children, make regulations which prohibit the provision to UK children of a Relevant VPN Service (the ‘child VPN prohibition’).
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) –
 - (a) may make provision for the provider of a Relevant VPN Service to apply to any person seeking to access its service in or from the UK age assurance which is highly effective at correctly determining whether or not that person is a child;
 - (b) must apply the child VPN prohibition to the provider of any Relevant VPN Service which is, or is likely to be –
 - (i) offered or marketed to persons in the United Kingdom;
 - (ii) provided to a significant number of persons.
 - (c) must make provision for the monitoring and effective enforcement of the child VPN prohibition.
- (3) OFCOM may produce guidance for providers of Relevant VPN Services to assist them in complying with the child VPN prohibition.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section –
 - “child” means a person under the age of 18.
 - “consumer” means a person acting otherwise than in the course of a business.
 - “Relevant VPN Service” means a service of providing, in the course of a business, to a consumer, a virtual private network for accessing the internet.
 - “UK child” means any child who is in the United Kingdom.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to take action to promote and protect children's wellbeing, and to further support child protective measures in the Online Safety Act, by prohibiting the provision to children in the United Kingdom of VPN services which can facilitate evasion of OSA age-gating processes.

LORD NASH

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause—

“Action to promote the wellbeing of children by combating child sexual abuse material (CSAM)”

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must, for the purpose of promoting the wellbeing of children, make and bring into force regulations which require manufacturers, importers and distributors of relevant smartphones and tablet computers to satisfy the CSAM requirement specified in subsection (2).
- (2) The ‘CSAM requirement’ is that any relevant smartphone or tablet computer supplied for use in the UK must have installed tamper-proof system software which is highly effective at preventing the recording, transmitting (by any means, including livestreaming) and viewing of CSAM using that device.
- (3) The duties of manufacturers, importers and distributors to comply with the CSAM requirement specified by regulations under subsection (1) must be subject to enforcement as if the CSAM requirement was a security requirement for the purposes of Part 1 of the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2022.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section—
 - “child sexual abuse material” means images, video recordings or live videos involving child sexual abuse, including—
 - (a) any indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child within the meaning of the Protection of Children Act 1978, and
 - (b) any prohibited image of a child, within the meaning of section 62 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, that is not an excluded image within the meaning of section 63 of that Act;
 - “relevant smartphones and tablet computers” are smartphones or tablet computers which are either internet-connectable products or network-connectable products for the purposes of section 5 of the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2022;
 - “manufacturer”, “importer”, “distributor”, and “supply” is each as defined in the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2022.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to take action to promote and protect children's wellbeing by mandating the installation of software which prevents the creation, viewing and sharing of child sexual abuse material on smartphones and tablets which are supplied for use in the UK.

LORD NASH

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Action to promote the wellbeing of children in relation to social media

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must, for the purposes of promoting the wellbeing of children –
 - (a) direct the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom (“the UK CMOs”) to prepare and publish advice for parents and carers on the use of social media by children at different ages and developmental stages, and
 - (b) by regulations made by statutory instrument require all regulated user-to-user services to use highly-effective age assurance measures to prevent children under the age of 16 from becoming or being users.
- (2) Any advice published under subsection (1)(a) must have regard to –
 - (a) the paper published on 7 February 2019 entitled “United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers’ commentary on ‘Screen-based activities and children and young people’s mental health and psychosocial wellbeing: a systematic map of reviews’”, and
 - (b) any scientific or other developments since the publication of that paper which appear to the UK CMOs to be relevant.
- (3) Any regulations under subsection (1)(b) must be treated as an enforceable requirement within the meaning of section 131 (and for the purposes of Part 7) of the Online Safety Act 2023.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1)(b) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section –

“the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom” means the Chief Medical Officers for –

 - (a) England,
 - (b) Wales,
 - (c) Scotland, and
 - (d) Northern Ireland;

“regulated user-to-user services” is as defined in the Online Safety Act 2023.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to take action to promote children’s wellbeing in relation to their use of social media by commissioning advice from the Chief Medical Officers and introducing regulations to prevent under 16s from accessing social media.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

★ After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“National Care Offer

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 18 months of the passing of this Act, publish a document (the “National Care Offer”) which sets out the minimum standards of information that local authorities must publish under section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (local offer for care leavers).
- (2) Before publishing or revising the National Care Offer, the Secretary of State must consult with persons that appear to the Secretary of State to represent the interests of care leavers.
- (3) Where a consultation under subsection (2) results in recommendations to be made to the National Care Offer, the Secretary of State must –
 - (a) make the recommended changes or otherwise implement the recommendations, or
 - (b) where not intending to make the recommended changes or otherwise implement the recommendations, publish a response to the consultation outlining the reasons for the Secretary of State’s decision and the action that will be taken instead.”

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

★ After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Care-experience in equality impact assessments

- (1) A public authority undertaking an impact assessment in the exercise of its duties under –
 - (a) section 149 of the Equality Act 2020;
 - (b) the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011;
 - (c) the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012;
 - (d) section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998,
 must include an assessment of the impact on persons who are or have been looked after by a local authority.”

Member's explanatory statement

By including Care Experience in Equality Impact Assessments, this amendment provides a mechanism that public bodies already understand and use, helping to support the extension of Corporate Parenting responsibilities in a way that is structured, measurable, and embedded in existing decision-making processes.

After Clause 63

LORD NORTON OF LOUTH

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Review of the Act

- (1) The Secretary of State must —
 - (a) carry out a review of the operation and effect of this Act,
 - (b) set out the conclusions of the review in a report,
 - (c) publish the report, and
 - (d) lay a copy of the report before Parliament.
- (2) The report must be published before the end of the period of five years beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

LORD HARRIES OF PENTREGARTH

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After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Citizenship education: British values

- (1) In any statement relating to British values for education purposes at primary and secondary level in England and Wales, the Secretary of State, OFSTED and any other public authority must include —
 - (a) democracy,
 - (b) the rule of law,
 - (c) freedom,
 - (d) equal respect for every person, and
 - (e) respect for the environment.
- (2) Any statement in subsection (1) must refer to British values as “values of British citizenship”.
- (3) The values listed under paragraphs (1)(a) to (e) must be taught as part of citizenship education for key stages 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- (4) In section (1)(a) “democracy” includes —
 - (a) an independent judiciary,
 - (b) in a Parliamentary system, a Government that is accountable to Parliament, regular election, and
 - (c) decentralised decision-making, accountable at an appropriate level to the electorate.
- (5) In subsection (1)(c) “freedom” includes —
 - (a) freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
 - (b) freedom of expression, and
 - (c) freedom of assembly and association.

- (6) In subsection (1)(e) “respect for the environment” means taking into account the systemic effect of human actions on the health and sustainability of the environment both within the United Kingdom and the planet as a whole, for present and future generations.”

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