Consultation on the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill

Evidence submitted to the Children, Young People and Education Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill

CADRP-74

About you

Individual

1 The Bill’s general principles

1.1 Do you support the principles of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill?

— No

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

A gentle smack is not child abuse, and there are already laws to protect children from violence.

Criminal offences should be reserved for child cruelty.

A 2017 ComRes poll showed 76% Welsh adults were against the criminalisation of smacking.

The police are already overstretched, and it would be wrong to divert police away from knife crimes to chasing a simple parental smack, which is a very rare event in a child’s life and only administered to protect the child from harming itself.

1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

No - it would be a waste of time.
2 The Bill’s implementation

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

No.

2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers? (we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

N/a

3 Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

It would criminalise loving and well-meaning parents and could involve social workers removing children from their parents causing emotional injury far greater than a slap followed by a hug.

4 Financial implications

4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum)? If no, go to question 5.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

This bill would waste the already stretched police budget.

5 Other considerations

5.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill? (we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

No.