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

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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)

There is already protection for children against violence. The Assembly has no right to remove rights of a parent to discipline their children - provided it is no more than a smack.

There is an epidemic of unsociable behaviour where children have no suitable role model.

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)

As I don’t support the bill, I don’t consider there should be any legislation at all, apart from what already exists.

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)

Where are the extra resources coming from? The current resources are already stretched.
The bill will probably encourage children to use it as a means to get their own way. All children need discipline and boundaries - how can parents enforce these if rights to discipline are taken away.

Polls have shown that more people are against this piece of legislation.

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)

Definitely not.

3 Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are there 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 give all rights to the child and none to the parent. Will the Assembly take responsibility when families break down because of an ill thought out piece of legislation. The bill certainly panders to the PC brigade.

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)

A waste of money which would be better spent elsewhere.

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)