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-185

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)

I do not think legislation is necessary as the existing laws are adequate to protect children.

The majority of parents are able to distinguish between what it abusive and what is lovingly disciplining their children.

Parents are responsible for supporting children to be self disciplining - it is legitimate for parents to do this using physical chastisement if appropriate in a measured way.

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 - as above

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)
The financial implications are a secondary issue but I think the bill cannot be administered in an already overstretched sector.

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)

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)

I am concerned that it will drive abuse underground

Over chastisement will not be visible if reasonable physical chastisement is not allowed

It could result in psychological / verbal abuse etc increasing - i.e. stopping physical chastisement is not the issue it is identifying parents who are unable to discipline their children lovingly.

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)

As above - already we are unable to support effective social care support to families.

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)

I think parents have been undermined already by the government's interference in this issue - parents need to be affirmed and a clear message sent out that physical chastisement is a reasonable form of discipline.