
Committee Stage: Wednesday 22 January 2025

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (Amendment Paper)

This document lists all amendments tabled to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. Any withdrawn amendments are listed at the end of the document. The amendments are arranged in the order in which it is expected they will be decided.

★ New Amendments.

☆ Amendments which will comply with the required notice period at their next appearance.

New Amendments: NC41 and NC42

Munira Wilson

36

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 1, page 2, line 11, leave out "may (in particular)" and insert "should, where appropriate"

Munira Wilson

37

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 1, page 2, line 21, leave out lines 21 to 23 and insert—

"(8) The child in relation to whom the family group decision-making meeting is held should be included in the meeting, unless the local authority deems it inappropriate."

Neil O'Brien

18

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 1, page 2, line 26, at end insert—

"(10) Nothing in this section permits an extension to the 26-week limit for care proceedings in section 14(2)(ii) of the Children and Families Act 2014."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment clarifies that nothing in this section should imply an extension to the statutory 26-week limit for care proceedings.

Ellie Chowns

49

☆ Clause 1, page 2, line 26, at end insert—

“31ZB Family group decision-making at the point of reunification

- (1) This section applies where a care order is to be discharged for the purposes of family reunification.
- (2) Usually prior to a child returning home, and no later than one month after the discharge of a care order, the local authority must offer a family-group decision-making meeting to the child’s parents or any other person with parental responsibility for the child.
- (3) If the offer is accepted by at least one person to whom it is made, the local authority must arrange for the meeting to be held.
- (4) The family-group decision-making meeting should have the purpose of empowering the child’s family network to promote the long-term safety and wellbeing of the child.
- (5) The duty under this section does not apply where the local authority considers that it would not be in the best interests of the child for the family group decision-making meeting to be offered or (as the case may be) to be held.
- (6) A “family network”, in relation to a child, consists of such persons with an interest in the child’s welfare as the authority considers appropriate to attend the meeting having regard to the child’s best interests, and such persons may (in particular) include—
 - (a) the child’s parents or any other person with parental responsibility for the child;
 - (b) relatives, friends or other persons connected with the child.
- (7) Where the local authority considers it appropriate, the child in relation to whom the family group decision-making meeting is held may attend the meeting.
- (8) In exercising functions under this section in relation to a child, the local authority must seek the views of the child unless it considers that it would not be appropriate to do so.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would impose a duty on local authorities to offer family-group decision-making at the point of reunification for children in care, analogous to that proposed before care proceedings are initiated.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 1

Clause 3, page 3, line 33, leave out “the director of children’s services for”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and Amendment 2 make minor changes relating to local authority nominations to a multi-agency child protection team.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 2

Clause 3, page 3, line 36, leave out “the director of children’s services for”

Member's explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 1.

Neil O'Brien

19

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 3, page 5, line 3, at end insert—

“16EC Report on work and impact of multi-agency child protection teams

- (1) The Secretary of State must report annually on the work and impact of multi-agency child protection teams.
- (2) A report under this section shall include analysis of —
 - (a) the membership of multi-agency child protection teams;
 - (b) the specific child protection activities undertaken by such teams;
 - (c) best practice in multi-agency work; and
 - (d) the impact of multi-agency child protection teams on —
 - (i) information sharing;
 - (ii) risk identification; and
 - (iii) joining up services between children’s social care, police, health services, education and other agencies, including the voluntary sector.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to report on the effectiveness of multi-agency child protection teams.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 3

Clause 3, page 5, line 36, leave out “the director of children’s services for”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on Amendment 1.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 4

Clause 3, page 5, line 40, leave out “the director of children’s services for”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on Amendment 2.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 5

Clause 3, page 6, line 7, leave out “whose director of children’s services” and insert “which”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on Amendments 1 and 2.

Neil O'Brien

20

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 4, page 6, line 33, at end insert—

“(4A) Where the relevant person considers that the disclosure would be more detrimental to the child than not disclosing the information, this decision must be recorded.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires decisions made not to disclose information to be recorded.

Neil O'Brien

21

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 4, page 7, line 5, at end insert —

“(6A) Where information is disclosed under this section, the recipient must consider the welfare of others to whom the information may relate or involve and take steps to promote their welfare.”

Munira Wilson

44

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 4, page 7, line 37, after “welfare” insert “or wellbeing”

Munira Wilson

43

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 4, page 8, line 20, at end insert—

“(11A) The Secretary of State may, by regulations under subsection (10), require every designated person to use a consistent identifier in relation to all children.”

Munira Wilson

45

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 4, page 8, line 23, leave out lines 23 to 26

Munira Wilson

38

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 5, page 9, line 20, at end insert—

“(e) financial support;
(f) legal support;
(g) family group decision making.”

Neil O'Brien

22

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 5, page 9, line 37, at end insert—

“(8) In fulfilling its duties under subsection (7) a local authority must annually consult and collect feedback from children in kinship care and their carers about its kinship local offer.

(9) Feedback received under subsection (8) must be published annually.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require local authorities to consult children and carers when assessing their kinship care offer.

Munira Wilson

39

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 5, page 9, line 38, at end insert—

“(8) A local authority must from time to time publish—

- (a) comments about its kinship local offer received from or on behalf of children, kinship carers and others with lived experience of aspects of kinship care;
 - (b) the authority's response to those comments, including details of any action the authority intends to take.
- (9) Comments published under subsection (8)(a) must be published in a form that does not enable the person who made them to be identified.
- (10) The Secretary of State may, by regulations, make further provision about—
- (a) the information to be included in an authority's kinship local offer;
 - (b) how an authority's kinship local offer is to be published;
 - (c) the parties who are to be involved and consulted by an authority in developing, preparing and reviewing its kinship local offer;
 - (d) how an authority is to involve children, kinship carers and others with lived experience of aspects of kinship care in the development, preparation and review of its local kinship offer; and
 - (e) the publication of comments on the kinship local offer, and the local authority's response, under subsection (8)(b), including circumstances in which comments are not required to be published."

Ellie Chowns

12

☆ Clause 7, page 11, line 38, after "support" insert "and staying put support"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would include staying put support in the support provided by local authorities under this section and extend the provision of Staying Put for young people to the age of 25.

Ellie Chowns

13

☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 7, after "support" insert "or staying put support"

Member's explanatory statement

See Amendment 12.

Ellie Chowns

14

☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 10, after "support" insert "or staying put support"

Member's explanatory statement

See Amendment 12.

Ellie Chowns

15

- ☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 11, after “support” insert “or staying put support”

Member's explanatory statement

See Amendment 12.

Neil O'Brien

23

Patrick Spencer

- ☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 13, at end insert —

“(3A) Where staying close support is provided, it must be provided with due regard to the wishes of the relevant person and a record must be kept of that person’s wishes.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require local authorities to take account of the wishes of the relevant young person when providing staying close support, and keep a record of those wishes.

Ellie Chowns

16

- ☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 14, after first “support” insert “and staying put support”

Member's explanatory statement

See Amendment 12.

Munira Wilson

40

Ian Sollom

- ☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 22, at end insert —

“(vi) financial support;

(vii) financial literacy”

Ellie Chowns

17

- ☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 22, at end insert—

“(5) “Staying put” has the meaning given by section 23CZA(2) of the Children’s Act 1989.”

Member's explanatory statement

See Amendment 12.

Munira Wilson

41

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 7, page 12, line 28, at end insert—

“(c) the provision of supported lodgings, where the young person and local authority deem appropriate.”

Neil O'Brien

24

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 10, page 16, line 39, at end insert —

“(8A) After subsection (9) insert —

“(10) Where a child is kept in secure accommodation under this section, the relevant local authority has a duty to provide therapeutic treatment for the child.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would place a duty on local authorities to provide treatment for children in secure accommodation.

Munira Wilson

42

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 14, page 28, line 37, at end insert—

“(c) independent schools with caring responsibilities and offering SEND provision.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would include independent special schools within the profit cap provision.

Neil O'Brien

25

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 14, page 29, line 25, at end insert—

“(10) Before making regulations under this section the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report containing —

- (a) details of the number of available placements in relevant establishments or agencies;
- (b) an analysis of the expected impact of this section on the number of available placements in relevant establishments or agencies.”

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 6

Clause 21, page 42, line 23, leave out “has the meaning given by section 437(8)” and insert “means—

- (a) a community, foundation or voluntary school, or
- (b) a community or foundation special school”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment amends the definition of “maintained school” in section 551B (inserted into the Education Act 1996 by clause 21) so that it does not exclude community or foundation special schools established in a hospital. Such schools are already excluded by the definition of “relevant school” in that inserted section.

Neil O'Brien

26

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 21, page 43, line 31, at end insert —

- “(4) This section may only come into force after the Secretary of State has laid before Parliament a report containing the following information—
- (a) what form breakfast club provision by schools currently takes;
 - (b) how much breakfast club provision costs schools, and how much is charged by schools for such provision;
 - (c) how much funding is estimated to be required to enable schools to meet the requirements of this section;
 - (d) what additional staff will be required to deliver the breakfast clubs; and
 - (e) the grounds on which the Secretary of State would use the power under section 551C.”

Neil O'Brien

27

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 21, page 43, line 31, at end insert—

- “(4) This section may only come into force after the Secretary of State has provided details of how schools are to be resourced to meet the requirements of this section.”

Neil O'Brien

28

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 21, page 43, line 31, at end insert—

“551E Duty to fund secondary school breakfast clubs

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within three months of the passing of the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act, create a national school breakfast club programme.
- (2) A programme created under subsection (1) must—
 - (a) provide a 75% subsidy for the food and delivery costs of breakfast club provision; and
 - (b) offer pupils in participating schools free food and drink.
- (3) To be eligible to participate in the programme—
 - (a) a school must be a state funded secondary school, special school or provider of alternative provision; and
 - (b) at least 40% of the pupils on the school’s pupil roll must be in bands A-F of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to continue with the existing funding programme for secondary school breakfast clubs in areas of deprivation.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 7

Clause 23, page 44, line 22, after “school” insert “in England”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on Amendment 8, and is needed to ensure that clause 23 applies only in relation to relevant schools in England.

Neil O'Brien

29

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 23, page 44, line 23, leave out “have” and insert “buy”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would enable schools to require pupils to wear more than three branded items of school uniform as long as parents have not had to pay for them.

Neil O'Brien

30

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 23, page 44, line 26, leave out “have” and insert “buy”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would enable schools to require pupils to wear more than three branded items of school uniform as long as parents have not had to pay for them.

Neil O'Brien

31

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 23, page 44, line 29, at end insert—

“(1A) The appropriate authority of a school may require a pupil to buy or replace branded items which have been lost or damaged, or which the pupil has grown out of.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would enable schools to require pupils to replace lost or damaged branded items.

Neil O'Brien

32

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 23, page 44, line 40, at end insert “except PE kit or other clothing or items required as part of the school’s provision of physical education lessons”

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 8

Clause 23, page 45, leave out lines 13 to 18 and insert—

““relevant school” means—

- (a) an Academy school,
- (b) an alternative provision Academy,
- (c) a maintained school,
- (d) a non-maintained special school, or
- (e) a pupil referral unit,

other than where established in a hospital;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that the definition of “relevant school” in section 551ZA (inserted into the Education Act 1996 by clause 23) is consistent with the definition in section 551B of the Education Act 1996 (inserted by clause 21), and accordingly excludes any school established in a hospital.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 9

Clause 23, page 45, line 25, leave out “has the meaning given by section 437(8)” and insert “means—

- (a) a community, foundation or voluntary school, or

(b) a community or foundation special school”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment amends the definition of “maintained school” in section 551ZA (inserted into the Education Act 1996 by clause 23) so that it does not exclude community or foundation special schools established in a hospital, which are now excluded as a result of Amendment 8.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov 10

Clause 23, page 45, line 27, at end insert—

“(4) In section 551A (guidance about the costs of school uniforms: England), for subsections (5) and (6) substitute—

“(5) In this section “the appropriate authority” and “relevant school” have the same meanings as in section 551ZA.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment aligns the definitions in section 551A of the Education Act 1996 with those in the sections inserted by clauses 21 and 23 (as amended by Amendments 6, 7, 8 and 9).

Neil O'Brien

33

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 24, page 46, line 3, leave out from beginning of line to “a” in line 10

Munira Wilson

46

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 24, page 46, line 4, leave out subsection (3)

Neil O'Brien

35

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 24, page 46, line 18, at end insert “or,

“(c) providing services to the child or their family under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.”

Neil O'Brien

34

Patrick Spencer

☆ Clause 24, page 47, line 6, at end insert—

“(8A) Where a local authority refuses consent in respect of a child who meets the criteria for Condition A, the local authority must provide the parents or carers of the relevant child with a statement of reasons for the decision.

(8B) A statement of reasons provided under subsection (8A) must include an assessment of the costs and benefits to the child.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a local authority to submit a statement of reasons when they do not agree for a child who meets Condition A to be home educated.

Munira Wilson

47

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 45, page 104, line 17, at end insert—

“(za) in subsection (1)(a), after “the” insert “minimum””

Munira Wilson

48

Ian Sollom

☆ Clause 51, page 112, line 4, at end insert—

“(5) After section 7A (withdrawal of notices under section 7), insert—

“7B New schools to allocate no more than half of pupil places on basis of faith

A new school for which proposals are sought by a local authority under section 7 must, where the school is oversubscribed, provide that no more than half of all places are allocated on the basis of or with reference to—

- (a) the pupil’s religious faith, or presumed religious faith;
- (b) the religious faith, or presumed religious faith, of the pupil’s parents.””

Jess Asato

11

Ellie Chowns

☆ Clause 59, page 115, line 18, at end insert—

“(2A) Section (Abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment) comes into force at the end of the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on NC10.

Catherine McKinnell

Gov NC6

To move the following Clause—

“Care leavers not to be regarded as becoming homeless intentionally

- (1) In section 191 of the Housing Act 1996 (becoming homeless intentionally)—
- (a) after subsection (1) insert—
- “(1ZA) But a person does not become homeless intentionally in a case described in any of subsections (1A) to (1C).”;
- (b) in subsection (1A), for the words before paragraph (a) substitute “The first case is where—”;
- (c) after subsection (1A) insert—
- “(1B) The second case is where the person is a relevant child within the meaning given by section 23A(2) of the Children Act 1989.
- (1C) The third case is where the person is a former relevant child within the meaning given by section 23C(1) of that Act and aged under 25.”;
- (d) in subsection (3), in the words before paragraph (a), after “person” insert “, other than a person described in subsection (1B) or (1C),”.
- (2) The amendments made by this section do not apply in relation to an application of a kind mentioned in section 183(1) of the Housing Act 1996 made before the date on which this section comes into force, except where the local housing authority deciding the application has not yet decided the matters set out in section 184(1)(a) and (b) of that Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

The Housing Act 1996 requires local housing authorities to assist persons with securing accommodation in certain circumstances and limits the requirement in relation to persons who have become homeless intentionally. This amendment would prevent the limitation applying in relation to certain young persons formerly looked after by local authorities.

Munira Wilson

NC1

Lisa Smart
 Caroline Voaden
 Wendy Chamberlain
 Manuela Perteghella
 Steff Aquarone

James MacCleary
 Ian Sollom

Luke Taylor

Mr Paul Kohler

To move the following Clause—

“Implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 6 months of the passing of this Act, take steps to implement each of the recommendations made in the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, after a period of six months has elapsed from the passing of this Act and at 12 monthly intervals thereafter, publish a report detailing the steps taken by the Government to implement each of the recommendations.
- (3) A report published under subsection (2) must include—
 - (a) actions taken to meet, action or implement each of the recommendations made in the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse;
 - (b) details of any further action required to implement each of the recommendations or planned to supplement the recommendations;
 - (c) consideration of any challenges to full or successful implementation of the recommendations, with proposals for addressing these challenges so as to facilitate implementation of the recommendations; and
 - (d) where it has not been practicable to fully implement a recommendation—
 - (i) explanation of why implementation has not been possible;
 - (ii) a statement of the Government’s intention to implement the recommendation; and
 - (iii) a timetable for implementation.
- (4) A report published under subsection (2) must be subject to debate in both Houses of Parliament within one month of its publication.
- (5) In meeting its obligations under subsections (1) and (2), the Secretary of State may consult with such individuals or organisations as they deem appropriate.”

Dr Simon Opher

NC2

Ian Byrne
Iqbal Mohamed
Kim Johnson
Neil Duncan-Jordan
Kate Osborne

Cat Eccles
Chris Webb
Richard Burgon
Florence Eshalomi
Peter Prinsley
Sarah Champion
Bell Ribeiro-Addy
Apsana Begum
Kate Osamor

Jeremy Corbyn
Steve Witherden
Zarah Sultana
Jon Trickett
Julia Buckley
Siân Berry
Rachael Maskell
John McDonnell
Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck

Abtisam Mohamed
Ellie Chowns
Mrs Sharon Hodgson
Dr Becky Cooper
Sarah Hall
Paula Barker
Grahame Morris
Shockat Adam

To move the following Clause—

“Provision of free school lunches to all primary school children

- (1) Section 512ZB of the Education Act 1996 (provision of free school lunches and milk) is amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph (4A)(b), after "year 2," insert "year 3, year 4, year 5, year 6".
- (3) In subsection (4C), after "age of 7;" insert—
 - “Year 3” means a year group in which the majority of children will, in the school year, attain the age of 8;
 - “Year 4” means a year group in which the majority of children will, in the school year, attain the age of 9;
 - “Year 5” means a year group in which the majority of children will, in the school year, attain the age of 10;
 - “Year 6” means a year group in which the majority of children will, in the school year, attain the age of 11;”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would extend free school lunches to all primary school age children in state funded schools.

Marie Goldman

NC3

Pippa Heylings
Mr Joshua Reynolds
Charlotte Cane
Tom Gordon
Mike Martin

Alex Brewer
Caroline Voaden
Ian Sollom

Helen Maguire
Mr Lee Dillon
Munira Wilson

Liz Jarvis
Monica Harding

To move the following Clause—

“Reporting of local authority performance regarding EHC plans

In the Children and Families Act 2014, after section 40 insert—

“40A Reporting of local authority performance

- (1) Local authorities must publish regular information relating to their fulfilment of duties relating to EHC needs assessments and EHC plans under this part.
- (2) Such information must include—
 - (a) the authority's performance against the requirements of this Act and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 relating to the timeliness with which action needs to be taken by the authority in relation to EHC needs assessments and EHC plans;

- (b) explanations for any failures to meet relevant deadlines or timeframes;
 - (c) proposals for improving the authority's performance.
- (3) Information published under this section must be published—
- (a) on a monthly basis;
 - (b) on the local authority's website; and
 - (c) in a form which is easily accessible and understandable.””

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require local authorities to publish their performance against the statutory deadlines in the EHCP process.

Dr Simon Opher

NC5

Zarah Sultana
Mrs Sharon Hodgson
Florence Eshalomi
Jon Trickett
Ellie Chowns

Sarah Hall
Sarah Champion
Dr Beccy Cooper
Richard Burgon

Iqbal Mohamed
Neil Duncan-Jordan
Shockat Adam
Chris Webb

Kim Johnson
John McDonnell
Cat Eccles
Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck

To move the following Clause—

“Provision of free meals and activities during school holidays

- (1) A local authority must—
- (a) provide; or
 - (b) coordinate the provision of programmes which provide, free meals and activities to relevant children during school holidays.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “relevant children” means children in receipt of free school meals.
- (3) The Secretary of State may, by regulations made by statutory instrument—
- (a) specify minimum standards for meals and activities during school holidays;
 - (b) specify criteria that organisations involved in the delivery of meals and activities during school holidays must meet.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would place a duty on local authorities to provide or coordinate free meals and activities for children eligible for free school meals during school holidays.

Neil O'Brien

NC7

Patrick Spencer

To move the following Clause—

“Power to prescribe pay and conditions for teachers

The Secretary of State must, within three months of the passing of this Act—

- (a) make provision for the power of the governing bodies of maintained schools to set the pay and working conditions of school teachers to be made equivalent with the relevant powers of academies;
- (b) provide guidance to all applicable schools that—
 - (i) pay levels given in the School Teachers’ Pay and Conditions Document are to be treated as the minimum pay of relevant teachers;
 - (ii) teachers may be paid above the pay levels given in the School Teachers’ Pay and Conditions Document.
 - (iii) they must have regard to the School Teachers’ Pay and Conditions Document but may vary from it in the best interests of their pupils and staff.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would make the pay set out in the School Teachers’ Pay and Conditions Document a floor, and extend freedoms over pay and conditions to local authority maintained schools.

Dr Simon Opher

NC8

Zarah Sultana
Mrs Sharon Hodgson
Florence Eshalomi
Jon Trickett
Ellie Chowns

Sarah Hall
Sarah Champion
Dr Beccy Cooper
Richard Burgon

Iqbal Mohamed
Neil Duncan-Jordan
Shockat Adam
Chris Webb

Kim Johnson
John McDonnell
Cat Eccles
Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck

To move the following Clause—

“Identification of children eligible for free school meals

After section 512ZA of the Education Act 1996 (power to charge for meals etc.) insert—

“512ZAA Identification of children eligible for free school meals

- (1) The Secretary of State must identify all children eligible for free school meals in England.
- (2) A child’s eligibility for free school meals is not dependent on any application having been made for free school meals on their behalf.
- (3) Where a child has been identified as eligible for free school meals, the Secretary of State must provide for this information to be shared with—
 - (a) the school at which the child is registered; and
 - (b) the relevant local education authority.

- (4) Where a school has been informed that a child on its pupil roll is eligible for free school meals, the school must provide that child with a free school meal.
- (5) A local education authority must provide the means for a parent or guardian of a child who has been identified as eligible for free school meals to opt out of the provision of a free school meal under subsection (4)."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would place a duty on the Secretary of State to proactively identify all children eligible for free school meals in England, making the application process for free school meals opt-out rather than opt-in.

Christine Jardine

NC9

Munira Wilson
Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Requirement to provide information about bereavement services

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations establish a protocol for the collection and dissemination of information relating to bereavement support services for children and young people.
- (2) A protocol made under subsection (1) must—
 - (a) define the bereavement support services to which the protocol applies, which must include services provided by—
 - (i) local authorities;
 - (ii) NHS bodies; and
 - (iii) charities and other third sector organisations;
 - (b) place a duty on the Secretary of State to publish information, including online, about services to which the protocol applies;
 - (c) place a duty on specified public bodies and other persons to provide information to children and young people about services to which the protocol applies, including—
 - (i) specialist services for children and young people;
 - (ii) services provided online; and
 - (iii) accessible services for deaf and disabled children and young people;
 - (d) where a duty under paragraph (c) applies, require the identification of children or young people who may require a service to which the protocol applies.
- (3) The Secretary of State must make regulations under this section by statutory instrument.

- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a draft statutory instrument containing regulations under this section within 12 months of the passing of this Act."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would place a duty on the Secretary of State to establish a protocol for the collection and dissemination of information about bereavement support services to children and young people.

Jess Asato

NC10

Ellie Chowns

☆ To move the following Clause—

"Abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment

- (1) The Children Act 2004 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 58 (Reasonable Punishment: England), omit subsections (1) to (4).
- (3) After section 58, insert—

"58A Abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment

- (1) The common law defence of reasonable punishment is abolished in relation to corporal punishment of a child taking place in England.
- (2) Corporal punishment of a child taking place in England cannot be justified in any civil or criminal proceedings on the ground that it constituted reasonable punishment.
- (3) Corporal punishment of a child taking place in England cannot be justified in any civil or criminal proceedings on the ground that it constituted acceptable conduct for the purposes of any other rule of the common law.
- (4) For the purposes of subsections (1) to (3) "corporal punishment" means any battery carried out as a punishment.
- (5) The Secretary of State may make regulations for transitory, transitional or saving provision in connection with the coming into force of this section.
- (6) The power to make regulations under subsection (5) is exercisable by statutory instrument.

58B Promotion of public awareness and reporting

- (1) The Secretary of State must take steps before the coming into force of section 58A to promote public awareness of the changes to the law to be made by that section.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, five years after its commencement, prepare a report on the effect of the changes to the law made by section 58A.
- (3) The Secretary of State must, as soon as practicable after preparing a report under this section—
 - (a) lay the report before Parliament, and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (4) The Secretary of State may make regulations for transitory, transitional or saving provision in connection with the coming into force of this section.
- (5) The power to make regulations under subsection (4) is exercisable by statutory instrument.””

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would abolish the common law defence of reasonable punishment in relation to corporal (physical) punishment of a child taking place in England, amend certain provisions of the Children Act 2004 relating to corporal punishment children and place a duty on the Secretary of State to report this change.

Tim Farron

NC11

Munira Wilson
Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Benefits of outdoor education to children's wellbeing

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passing of this Act, conduct a review on the benefits of outdoor education to children's wellbeing.
- (2) A report on the review must be published within six months of the conclusion of the review.”

Tim Farron

NC12

Munira Wilson
Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Provision of residential outdoor education for children in kinship care

- (1) A local authority must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that children living in kinship care receive at least one residential outdoor education experience.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, children living in kinship care has the meaning provided for by section 221 of the Children Act 1989 (as amended by this Act).”

Ellie Chowns

NC13

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Foster carers’ delegated authority for children in their care

- (1) Where a child (“C”) who is looked after by the local authority is placed with a foster parent (“F”) by a local authority, F may make decisions on C’s behalf in relation to the matters set out in subsection (2) where C’s placement plan does not specify an alternative decision maker.
- (2) The matters referred to in subsection (1) are—
 - (a) medical and dental treatment,
 - (b) education,
 - (c) leisure and home life,
 - (d) faith and religious observance,
 - (e) use of social media,
 - (f) personal care, and
 - (g) any other matters which F considers appropriate.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would enable foster carers to make day-to-day decisions on behalf of the children and young people they foster.

Neil O'Brien

NC14

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Funding for the National Wraparound Childcare Programme

The Secretary of State must, within 3 months of the passing of this Act, make provision for the extension of funding for the National Wraparound Childcare Programme beyond the 2025-26 financial year.”

Neil O'Brien

NC15

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“National statutory inquiry into grooming gangs

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 3 months of the passing of this Act, set up a statutory inquiry into grooming gangs.
- (2) An inquiry established under subsection (1) must seek to—
 - (a) identify common patterns of behaviour and offending between grooming gangs;
 - (b) identify the type, extent and volume of crimes committed by grooming gangs;
 - (c) identify the number of victims of crimes committed by grooming gangs;
 - (d) identify the ethnicity of members of grooming gangs;
 - (e) identify any failings, by action, omission or deliberate suppression, by—
 - (i) police,
 - (ii) local authorities,
 - (iii) prosecutors,
 - (iv) charities,
 - (v) political parties,
 - (vi) local and national government,
 - (vii) healthcare providers and health services, or
 - (viii) other agencies or bodies,in the committal of crimes by grooming gangs, including by considering whether the ethnicity of the perpetrators of such crimes affected the response by such agencies or bodies;
 - (f) identify such national safeguarding actions as may be required to minimise the risk of further such offending occurring in future;
 - (g) identify good practice in protecting children.
- (3) The inquiry may do anything it considers is calculated to facilitate, or is incidental or conducive to, the carrying out of its functions and the achievement of the requirements of subsection (2).
- (4) An inquiry established under this section must publish a report within two years of the launch of the inquiry.
- (5) For the purposes of this section—

“gang” means a group of at least three adult males whose purpose or intention is to commit a sexual offence against the same victim or group of victims;

“grooming” means—

 - (a) activity carried out with the primary intention of committing sexual offences against the victim;
 - (b) activity that is carried out, or predominantly carried out, in person;
 - (c) activity that includes the provision of illicit substances and/or alcohol either as part of the grooming or concurrent with the commission of the sexual offence.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would set up a national statutory inquiry into grooming gangs.

Neil O'Brien

NC16

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Right to review school curriculum material

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), where requested by the parent or carer of a child on the school’s pupil roll, a school must allow such persons to view all materials used in the teaching of the school curriculum, including those provided by external, third-party, charitable or commercial providers.
- (2) Schools may restrict access to curriculum materials where there are concerns relating to commercial prejudice or commercial confidentiality.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would ensure that parents can view materials used in the teaching of the school curriculum.

Neil O'Brien

NC17

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Academy Conversion Support Grant

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within three months of the passing of this Act, make provision for a scheme to provide specified funds (‘an academy conversion support grant’) to eligible schools for the purposes of supporting the process of converting to an academy.
- (2) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) “eligible schools” include—
 - (i) schools which are part of a group of three or more schools which—
 - (A) have been approved to convert to an academy; and
 - (B) intend to join the same academy trust; and
 - (ii) special or alternative provision schools which have been approved to convert to an academy—
 - (A) as a single school; or
 - (B) with one or more other school;
 - (b) “specified funds” may be up to a maximum level specified by the Secretary of State in regulations.

- (3) A school which receives an academy conversion support grant may only use such funds for the purposes of supporting the process of converting to an academy, which may include but may not be limited to—
 - (a) obtaining legal advice;
 - (b) transferring software licenses;
 - (c) advice relating to human resources and compliance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations;
 - (d) costs associated with re-branding; and
 - (e) expenses incurred in setting up an Academy Trust.
- (4) The Secretary of State may, by regulations, amend the level of funds which can form an academy conversion support grant.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to provide an academy conversion support grant to support schools with the process of converting to an academy.

Neil O'Brien

NC18

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“School Trust CEO Programme

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within three months of the passing of this Act, make provision for the delivery of a programme of development for Chief Executive Officers of large multi-academy trusts (“the School Trust CEO Programme”).
- (2) The School Trust CEO Programme shall be provided by—
 - (a) the National Institute of Teaching; or
 - (b) a different provider nominated by the Secretary of State.
- (3) The purposes of the School Trust CEO Programme shall include, but not be limited to—
 - (a) building the next generation of CEOs and system architects;
 - (b) providing the knowledge, insight and practice to ensure CEOs can run successful, sustainable, thriving trusts that develop as anchor institutions in their communities;
 - (c) building a network of CEOs to improve practice in academy trusts and shape the system; and
 - (d) nurturing the talents of CEOs to lead and grow large multi-academy trusts, especially in areas where such trusts are most needed.
- (4) The Secretary of State must provide the School Trust CEO Programme with such funding and resources as are required for the carrying out of its duties.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to provide a School Trust CEO Programme.

Neil O'Brien

NC19

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Trust Capacity Fund

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within three months of the passing of this Act, establish a Trust Capacity Fund.
- (2) The purpose of the Trust Capacity Fund will be to support the growth of multi-academy trusts.
- (3) The Trust Capacity Fund may provide funding to maintained schools and academy trusts which—
 - (a) are considered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to be of sound financial health; and
 - (b) have an eligible growth project that has been approved by the Secretary of State.
- (4) The Secretary of State may, by regulations, specify applications for funding to which the Trust Capacity Fund will give particular regard, which may include applications from trusts—
 - (a) taking on or formed from schools which have received specified judgements in their most recent inspections; or
 - (b) taking on or comprising schools in Education Investment Areas.
- (5) The Secretary of State must provide the Trust Capacity Fund with such funding and resources as are required for the carrying out of its duties.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to establish a Trust Capacity Fund to support the growth of multi-academy trusts.

Neil O'Brien

NC20

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Approved free schools and university training colleges in pre-opening

The Secretary of State must make provision for the opening of all free schools and university training colleges whose applications were approved prior to October 2024.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to proceed with the opening of free schools whose opening was paused in October 2024.

Neil O'Brien

NC21

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“School attendance: general duties on local authorities

In Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Act 1996 (school attendance), after section 443 insert—

“School attendance: registered pupils, offences etc

443A School attendance: general duties on local authorities in England

- (1) A local authority in England must exercise their functions with a view to—
 - (a) promoting regular attendance by registered pupils at schools in the local authority’s area, and
 - (b) reducing the number and duration of absences of registered pupils from schools in that area.
- (2) In exercising their functions, a local authority in England must have regard to any guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State in relation to school attendance.””

Neil O'Brien

NC22

Patrick Spencer

☆ To move the following Clause—

“School attendance policies

In Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Act 1996 (school attendance), after section 443 insert—

“443A School attendance policies

- (1) The proprietor of a school in England must ensure—
 - (a) that policies designed to promote regular attendance by registered pupils are pursued at the school, and
 - (b) that those policies are set out in a written document (an “attendance policy”).
- (2) An attendance policy must in particular include details of—
 - (a) the practical procedures to be followed at the school in relation to attendance,
 - (b) the measures in place at the school to promote regular attendance by its registered pupils,
 - (c) the responsibilities of particular members of staff in relation to attendance,

- (d) the action to be taken by staff if a registered pupil fails to attend the school regularly, and
 - (e) if relevant, the school's strategy for addressing any specific concerns identified in relation to attendance.
- (3) The proprietor must ensure—
- (a) that the attendance policy and its contents are generally made known within the school and to parents of registered pupils at the school, and
 - (b) that steps are taken at least once in every school year to bring the attendance policy to the attention of all those parents and pupils and all persons who work at the school (whether or not for payment).
- (4) In complying with the duties under this section, the proprietor must have regard to any guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State in relation to school attendance.””

Neil O'Brien
Patrick Spencer

NC23

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Penalty notices: regulations

In section 444B of the Education Act 1996 (penalty notices: attendance), after subsection (1) insert—

- “(1A) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations under subsection (1) may make provision in relation to England—
- (a) as to the circumstances in which authorised officers must consider giving a penalty notice;
 - (b) for or in connection with co-ordination arrangements between local authorities and neighbouring local authorities (where appropriate), the police and authorised officers.””

Neil O'Brien
Patrick Spencer

NC24

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Academies: regulations as to granting a leave of absence

- (1) Section 551 of the Education Act 1996 (regulations as to duration of school day etc) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1), for “to which this section applies” substitute “mentioned in subsection (2)”.

- (3) In subsection (2), omit “to which this section applies”.
- (4) After subsection (2) insert—
 - “(3) Regulations may also make provision with respect to the granting of leave of absence from any schools which are Academies not already falling within subsection (2)(c).”

Neil O'Brien
Patrick Spencer

NC25

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Report on the impact of charging VAT on private school fees

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within two years of the passing of this Act, publish a report on the impact of charging VAT on private school fees.
- (2) A report published under subsection (1) must include the following information—
 - (a) how many private schools have closed as a result of the decision to charge VAT on private school fees;
 - (b) how many pupils have moved school because of the decision to charge VAT on private school fees;
 - (c) an analysis, considering paragraphs (a) and (b), of the impact of the decision to charge VAT on private school fees on maintained and academy schools, including on—
 - (i) the availability of school places nationally and in areas where private schools have closed;
 - (ii) the percentage of children which are placed at their first-choice school; and
 - (iii) the number of schools which have had to increase their Publish Admissions Number.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to publish a report on the impact of charging VAT on private school fees.

Munira Wilson
Ian Sollom

NC26

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Kinship care leave

- (1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, entitle an individual to be absent from work on care leave under this section if the individual satisfies conditions

specified in the regulations relating to an eligible kinship care arrangement with a child.

- (2) Regulations made under subsection (1) must include provision for determining—
 - (a) the extent of an individual's entitlement to leave under this section; and
 - (b) when leave under this section may be taken.
- (3) Provision under subsection (2)(a) must secure that—
 - (a) where one individual is entitled to leave under this section, they are entitled to at least 52 weeks of leave; or
 - (b) where more than one individual is entitled to leave under this section in respect of the same child, those individuals are entitled to share at least 52 weeks of leave between them.
- (4) An employee is entitled to leave under this section only if the eligible kinship care arrangement is intended to last—
 - (a) at least one year, and
 - (b) until the child being cared for attains the age of 18.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, an "eligible kinship care arrangement" means—
 - (a) an arrangement where a child is adopted (within the meaning of Chapter 4 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002) by a friend, relative or extended family member;
 - (b) an arrangement where—
 - (i) a child is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and
 - (ii) a friend, relative or extended family member of that child is approved by the local authority to be a foster carer for that child;
 - (c) an arrangement created by a special guardianship order pursuant to section 14A of the Children Act 1989;
 - (d) an arrangement created by a child arrangements order pursuant to section 8 of the Children Act 1989 where the court orders that a child is to live predominantly with a friend, relative or extended family member of that child;
 - (e) an arrangement where a child is fostered privately (within the meaning of section 66 of the Children Act 1989) by a friend or extended family member); or
 - (f) any other arrangement where a child is cared for, and provided with accommodation in their own home—
 - (i) by a relative of the child, other than a parent of the child, or by a person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for the child; and
 - (ii) where the arrangement has lasted, or is intended to last, for at least 28 days.
- (6) Regulations made under this section may make provision about how leave under this section is to be taken."

Munira Wilson

NC27

Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Kinship care allowance

- (1) A person is entitled to a kinship care allowance for any week in which that person is engaged in caring for a child under an eligible kinship care arrangement in England.
- (2) In this section, “eligible kinship care arrangement” means—
 - (a) an arrangement where a child is adopted (within the meaning of Chapter 4 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002) by a friend, relative or extended family member;
 - (b) an arrangement where—
 - (i) a child is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and
 - (ii) a friend, relative or extended family member of that child is approved by the local authority to be a foster carer for that child;
 - (c) an arrangement created by a special guardianship order pursuant to section 14A of the Children Act 1989;
 - (d) an arrangement created by a child arrangements order pursuant to section 8 of the Children Act 1989 where the court orders that a child is to live predominantly with a friend, relative or extended family member of that child;
 - (e) an arrangement where a child is fostered privately (within the meaning of section 66 of the Children Act 1989) by a friend or extended family member; or
 - (f) any other arrangement where a child is cared for, and provided with accommodation in their own home—
 - (i) by a relative of the child, other than a parent of the child, or by a person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for the child; and
 - (ii) where the arrangement has lasted, or is intended to last, for at least 28 days.
- (3) A person is not entitled to an allowance under this section unless that person satisfies conditions prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (4) A person may claim an allowance under this section in respect of more than one child.
- (5) Where two or more persons would be entitled for the same week to such an allowance in respect of the same child, only one allowance may be claimed on the behalf of—
 - (a) the person jointly elected by those two for that purpose, or
 - (b) in default of such an election, the person determined by, and at the discretion of, the Secretary of State.

- (6) Regulations may prescribe the circumstances in which a person is or is not to be treated for the purposes of this section as engaged, or regularly and substantially engaged, in caring for a child under an eligible kinship care arrangement.
- (7) An allowance under this section is payable at the weekly rate specified by the Secretary of State in regulations.
- (8) Regulations under subsection (7) may specify—
 - (a) different weekly rates for different ages of children being cared for, or
 - (b) different weekly rates for different regions of England.
- (9) Regulations under subsection (7) must specify a weekly rate that is no lower than the minimum weekly allowance for foster carers published by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 23 of the Care Standards Act 2000.”

Munira Wilson

NC28

Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Extension of pupil premium to children subject to a kinship care arrangement

- (1) The Secretary of State must, for the financial year beginning 1 April 2026 and for each year thereafter, provide that an amount is payable from the pupil premium grant to schools and local authorities in respect of each registered pupil in England who is subject to an eligible kinship care arrangement.
- (2) The amount payable under subsection (1) must be equal to the amount that is payable for a pupil who is a looked after child.
- (3) In this section—

“eligible kinship care arrangement” means—

 - (a) an arrangement where a child is adopted (within the meaning of Chapter 4 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002) by a friend, relative or extended family member;
 - (b) an arrangement where—
 - (i) a child is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and
 - (ii) a friend, relative or extended family member of that child is approved by the local authority to be a foster carer for that child;
 - (c) an arrangement created by a special guardianship order pursuant to section 14A of the Children Act 1989;
 - (d) an arrangement created by a child arrangements order pursuant to section 8 of the Children Act 1989 where the court orders that a child is to live predominantly with a friend, relative or extended family member of that child;

- (e) an arrangement where a child is fostered privately (within the meaning of section 66 of the Children Act 1989) by a friend or extended family member; or
- (f) any other arrangement where a child is cared for, and provided with accommodation in their own home—
 - (i) by a relative of the child, other than a parent of the child, or by a person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for the child; and
 - (ii) where the arrangement has lasted, or is intended to last, for at least 28 days;”

“looked after child” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989; “pupil premium grant” means the grant of that name paid to a school or a local authority by the Secretary of State under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 (power of Secretary of State and Senedd Cymru to give financial assistance for purposes related to education or children etc).”

Munira Wilson

NC29

Ilan Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Admissions arrangements relating to looked after children and children in kinship care

For section 88B of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (admission arrangements relating to children looked after by local authority) substitute—

“88B Admissions arrangements relating to looked after children and children in kinship care

- (1) Regulations may require the admission authorities for maintained schools in England to include in their admission arrangements provision relating to the admission of children who are—
 - (a) looked after by a local authority in England, or
 - (b) cared for under a kinship care arrangement as may be prescribed.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may in particular include provision for securing that, subject to sections 86(3), 86B(2) and (4) and 87, such children are to be offered admission in preference to other children.
- (3) In this section, “kinship care arrangement” means—
 - (a) an arrangement where a child is adopted (within the meaning of Chapter 4 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002) by a friend, relative or extended family member;
 - (b) an arrangement where—
 - (i) a child is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989), and

- (ii) a friend, relative or extended family member of that child is approved by the local authority to be a foster carer for that child;
- (c) an arrangement created by a special guardianship order pursuant to section 14A of the Children Act 1989;
- (d) an arrangement created by a child arrangements order pursuant to section 8 of the Children Act 1989 where the court orders that a child is to live predominantly with a friend, relative or extended family member of that child;
- (e) an arrangement where a child is fostered privately (within the meaning of section 66 of the Children Act 1989) by a friend or extended family member; or
- (f) any other arrangement where a child is cared for, and provided with accommodation in their own home—
 - (i) by a relative of the child, other than a parent of the child, or by a person who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for the child; and
 - (ii) where the arrangement has lasted, or is intended to last, for at least 28 days.””

Munira Wilson

NC30

Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Publication of details of preventative care and family support

- (1) Every local authority, must within six months of the passing of this Act, publish details of all preventative care and family support available to people in their area.
- (2) Information published under subsection (1) must be made available—
 - (a) on the authority’s website, and
 - (b) in all public libraries in the authority’s area.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require all local authorities to publish information about preventative care and family support and to ensure it is freely available to people living in the area.

Munira Wilson

NC31

Manuela Perteghella
 Caroline Voaden
 Ian Sollom
 Victoria Collins
 Wera Hobhouse

Mr Lee Dillon

Olly Glover

Jess Brown-Fuller

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Eligibility for free school lunches

In section 512ZB of the Education Act 1996 (provision of free school lunches and milk), before paragraph (a) insert—

“(za) C’s household income is less than £20,000 per year;””

Munira Wilson

NC32

Manuela Perteghella
Caroline Voaden
Ian Sollom
Victoria Collins
Wera Hobhouse

Mr Lee Dillon

Olly Glover

Jess Brown-Fuller

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Local authority registration of children eligible for free school meals

After section 512ZA of the Education Act 1996 (power to charge for meals etc.) insert—

“512ZAA Registration of children eligible for free school meals

- (1) A local authority must register for free school meals all children in its area who are eligible to receive free school meals.
- (2) A local authority may make provision for children to be registered for free school meals upon their parents demonstrating the child’s eligibility through an application for relevant benefits.””

Munira Wilson

NC33

Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Duty of school governing bodies regarding mental health provision

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), the governing body of a maintained or academy school in England has a duty to make arrangements for provision in the school of a dedicated mental health practitioner.
- (2) In subsection (1)—

“education mental health practitioner” means a person with a graduate-level or postgraduate-level qualification of that name earned through a course commissioned by NHS England.
- (3) Where a school has 100 or fewer pupils, the duty under subsection (1) may be satisfied through collaborative provision between several schools.

- (4) The Secretary of State must provide, or make arrangements for the provision of, appropriate financial and other support to school governing bodies for their purposes of facilitating the fulfilling of the duty in subsection (1)."

Munira Wilson

NC34

Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“National Tutoring Guarantee

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passing of this Act, publish a report outlining the steps necessary to introduce a National Tutoring Guarantee.
- (2) A “National Tutoring Guarantee” means a statutory requirement on the Secretary of State to ensure access to small group academic tutoring for all disadvantaged children who require academic support.
- (3) A report published under this section must include an assessment of how best to deliver targeted academic support from qualified tutors to children—
- (a) from low-income backgrounds,
 - (b) with low prior attainment,
 - (c) with additional needs, or
 - (d) who are young carers.
- (4) In preparing a report under this section, the Secretary of State must consult with—
- (a) headteachers,
 - (b) teachers,
 - (c) school leaders,
 - (d) parents of children from low-income backgrounds,
 - (e) children from low-income backgrounds, and
 - (f) other individuals or organisations as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (5) A report under this section must be laid before Parliament.
- (6) Within three months of a report under this section being laid before Parliament, the Secretary of State must take steps to implement the recommendations contained in the report.”

Munira Wilson

NC35

Ian Sollom
Mike Martin

☆ To move the following Clause—

“VAT zero-rating for certain items of school uniform

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 6 months of the passing of this Act, make provision for certain items of school uniform to be zero-rated for the purposes of VAT.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “certain items of school uniform” means items of school uniform for pupils up to the age of 16.”

Munira Wilson

NC36

Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Establishment of a National Body for SEND

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, establish a National Body for SEND.
- (2) The functions of the National Body for SEND will include, but not be limited to—
 - (a) national coordination of SEND provision;
 - (b) supporting the delivery of SEND support for children with very high needs;
 - (c) advising on funding needed by local authorities for SEND provision.
- (3) Any mechanism used by the National Body for SEND in advising on funding under subsection (2)(c) should be based on current need and may disregard historic spend.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would establish a National Body for SEND to support the delivery of SEND provision.

Munira Wilson

NC37

Ian Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Arrangements for national examinations for children not in school

After section 436G of the Education Act 1996, as inserted by section 25 of this Act, insert—

“436GA Arrangements for national examinations for children not in school

Where a child is eligible to be registered by the authority under section 436B, the authority must—

- (a) provide for the child to be able to sit any relevant national examination; and
 - (b) provide financial assistance to enable the child to sit any relevant national examination;
- where requested by the parent or carer of the child.””

Munira Wilson

NC38

Ilan Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Consultation on the structures of governance for local authority and academy schools

- (1) The Secretary of State must conduct a public consultation on the current structures of governance within both local authority and academy schools.
- (2) The consultation conducted under subsection (1) must consider—
 - (a) the role of school governors;
 - (b) the statutory duties of school governors;
 - (c) ways to encourage people to become school governors; and
 - (d) any other matters that the Secretary of State may see fit.
- (3) The Secretary of State must issue the consultation conducted under subsection (1) within one year of the commencement of this Act.
- (4) The Secretary of State must, within three months of the consultation closing, publish and lay before Parliament his response to the consultation.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause instigates a review of school governance in light of the severe shortage of school governors and the increasing responsibilities that volunteer governors are taking on.

Munira Wilson

NC39

Ilan Sollom

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Establishment of Child Protection Authority

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passing of this Act, establish a Child Protection Authority for England.
- (2) The purpose of such an Authority will be to—
 - (a) improve practice in child protection;
 - (b) provide advice and make recommendations to the Government on child protection policy and reforms to improve child protection;

- (c) inspect institutions and settings at some times and in such ways as it considers necessary and appropriate to ensure compliance with child protection standards; and
 - (d) monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and other inquiries relating to the protection of children.
- (3) The Authority must act with a view to—
- (a) safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
 - (b) ensuring that institutions and settings fulfil their responsibilities in relation to child protection.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would seek to fulfil the second recommendation of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in establishing a Child Protection Authority for England.

Ellie Chowns

NC40

☆ To move the following Clause—

“National offer for care leavers

In the Children and Social Work Act 2017, after section 2 insert—

“2A National offer for care leavers

- (1) The Secretary of State for Education must publish information about services which care leavers in all areas of England should be able to access to assist them in adulthood and independent living or in preparing for adulthood and independent living.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), services which may assist care leavers in adulthood and independent living or in preparing for adulthood and independent living include services relating to—
 - (a) health and well-being;
 - (b) relationships;
 - (c) education and training;
 - (d) employment;
 - (e) accommodation;
 - (f) participation in society.
- (3) Information published by the Secretary of State under this section is to be known as the “National Offer for Care Leavers”.
- (4) The Secretary of State must update the National Offer for Care Leavers from time to time.
- (5) Before publishing or updating the National Offer for Care Leavers the Secretary of State must consult with relevant persons about which services may assist care leavers in adulthood and independent living or in preparing for adulthood and independent living.

(6) In this section—

“care leavers” means—

- (a) eligible children within the meaning given by paragraph 19B of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989;
- (b) relevant children within the meaning given by section 23A(2) of that Act;
- (c) persons aged under 25 who are former relevant children within the meaning given by section 23C(1) of that Act;
- (d) persons qualifying for advice and assistance within the meaning given by section 24 of that Act;

“relevant persons” means—

- (a) such care leavers as appear to the Secretary of State to be representative of care leavers in England; and
- (b) other Ministers of State who have a role in arranging services that may assist care leavers in or preparing for independent living.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would introduce a new requirement on the Secretary of State for Education to publish a national offer detailing what support care leavers are entitled to claim by expanding the provisions in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which require local authorities to produce a “Local offer”.

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

NC41

★ To move the following Clause—

“Establishment of national school food monitoring scheme

- (1) Within 12 months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must institute a scheme for monitoring school food standards in England (“the national school food monitoring scheme”).
- (2) The purpose of the national school food monitoring scheme will be to determine whether applicable food standards duties are being met in the provision of all food in schools in England.
- (3) The national school food monitoring scheme may from time to time publish reports containing such information as it sees fit relating to school food standards in England.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would establish a national school food monitoring scheme, to ensure that the breakfast club provision included within this bill, along with all other school food, follows school food standards.

Munira Wilson

NC42

Ian Sollom

★ To move the following Clause—

“Establishment of National Wellbeing Measurement Programme

- (1) The Secretary of State must establish a national children and young people’s wellbeing measurement programme.
- (2) A programme established under this section must—
 - (a) conduct a national survey of the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in relevant schools in England;
 - (b) support schools in the administration of the survey;
 - (c) make provision for parental and student consent to participation in the survey, ensuring that participation is voluntary and that results are handled confidentially; and
 - (d) regularly publish the results of the survey and provide relevant data to participating schools, local authorities and other public bodies for the purposes of improving children and young people’s wellbeing.
- (3) A programme established under this section must—
 - (a) be developed and piloted within two years of the passing of this Act;
 - (b) be fully implemented in England no later than the start of the academic year three years after the passing of this Act;
 - (c) be reviewed as to its effectiveness by the Secretary of State every three years.
- (4) Any review of the programme under subsection (3)(c) must be published and laid before Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section “relevant school” means –
 - (a) an academy school,
 - (b) an alternative provision Academy,
 - (c) a maintained school,
 - (d) a non-maintained special school,
 - (e) an independent school, or
 - (f) a pupil referral unit,other than where established in a hospital.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would place a duty on the Secretary of State to introduce a national programme to regularly measure and report on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in schools.

Order of the House

[8 January 2025]

That the following provisions shall apply to the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Proceedings in Public Bill Committee

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Tuesday 11 February.
3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

Consideration and Third Reading

4. Proceedings on Consideration shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which those proceedings are commenced.
5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.
6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading.

Other proceedings

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.

Order of the Committee

[Tuesday 21 January 2024]

That—

1. the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Tuesday 21 January) meet—
 - (a) at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 21 January;
 - (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 23 January;
 - (c) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 28 January;
 - (d) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 30 January;
 - (e) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 4 February;
 - (f) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 6 February;
 - (g) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 11 February;
2. the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

Date	Time	Witness
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 10.00 am	Coram; Centre for Young Lives
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 10.30am	Association of Directors of Children's Services; Local Government Association
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 11.00am	Association of School and College Leaders; National Association of Head Teachers
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 11.25am	Cafcass
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 2.20pm	The Children's Commissioner for England
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 2.40pm	Ofsted
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 3.15pm	The Children's Society; Children's Charities Coalition; Become
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 3.45pm	Church of England; Catholic Education Service
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 4.20pm	United Learning; Harris Federation; Dixons Academies Trust
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 4.55pm	Suffolk Primary Headteachers' Association; Northern Education Trust; Confederation of School Trusts
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 5.10pm	Axiom Maths
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 5.25pm	Child Poverty Action Group
Tuesday 21 January	Until no later than 5.45pm	Department for Education

3. proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clauses 1 to 29; Schedule 1; Clauses 30 to 54; Schedule 2; Clauses 55 to 60; new Clauses; new Schedules; remaining proceedings on the Bill;
4. the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 11 February.

Withdrawn Amendments

The following amendments were withdrawn on 20 January 2024:

NC4