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Make provision for the accreditation of child contact centres; and for connected purposes.

1 Accreditation of child contact centres

- (1) Any child contact centre or organisation that offers facilities or services for child contact must be accredited by the National Association of Child Contact Centres (“NACCC”).
- (2) The contact centre must be accredited for either – 5
 (a) supported contact, or
 (b) supervised contact,
 as the NACCC deems appropriate having regard to the facilities or services the contact centre provides.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), the accreditation must not have expired. 10
- (4) The NACCC may not accredit a contact centre unless the contact centre adheres to the NACCC’s standards for accreditation and re-accreditation, as amended from time to time.
- (5) After section 10 of the Children Act 2004, (co-operation to improve well-being) insert – 15
“10A Child contact centres
 Each local authority in England has a duty to ensure that any and all facilities used for child contact by the local authority are accredited by the National Association of Child Contact Centres.”
- (6) After section 11A(2) of the Children Act 1989 (activity directions) insert – 20
“(2ZA) In making an activity direction in respect of the matters in subsection (1A)(c) and (1A)(d), the court must specify that any contact which is to take place in a child contact centre may only take place in a child contact centre which is accredited by the National Association of Child Contact Centres.” 25
- (7) In this section –
 “child contact centre” means an organisation that offers facilities or services which support or supervise child contact;

“child contact” means contact with any person with whom a child does not live.

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England only.
- (2) Section 1 comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed. 5
- (3) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Child Contact Centres (Accreditation) Act 2016.

Child Contact Centres (Accreditation) Bill [HL]

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Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

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