

Children and Social Work Bill [HL]

AMENDMENT
TO BE MOVED
ON REPORT

After Clause 33

LORD DUBS
THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM

In substitution for the amendment published on sheet HL Bill 57(i)

Insert the following new Clause—

“Safeguarding unaccompanied refugee children

After section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (unaccompanied refugee children: relocation and support), insert—

“67A Strategy for safeguarding of unaccompanied refugee children

- (1) The Secretary of State must, by 1 May 2017, publish a strategy for the safeguarding of unaccompanied refugee children living in the United Kingdom, and children who have been identified for resettlement in the United Kingdom under Section 67 of this Act.
- (2) In formulating the strategy, the Secretary of State must, in addition to other actions he or she considers relevant to the duty under subsection (1)—
 - (a) consult with all public agencies who may be required to provide services to child refugees, including the European Asylum Support Office, local government and the devolved administrations, for the purposes of enabling them to discharge their safeguarding duties towards those unaccompanied children, as set out in—
 - (i) section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (provision of services for children in need, their families and others),
 - (ii) section 47 of that Act (local authority's duty to investigate), and
 - (iii) the sections of that Act which deal with public agencies' housing and care-leaving responsibilities;
 - (b) evaluate the procedures for, and speed of, resettling those unaccompanied refugee children who have been identified for resettlement in the United Kingdom under section 67 of this Act;
 - (c) liaise with non-governmental bodies relevant to the implementation of the strategy;

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- (d) make recommendations on how to ensure the provision of full-cost reimbursement to agencies required to provide services under the strategy for whatever period is required to fulfil their duties.
- (3) The strategy must include—
- (a) how safeguarding will differ for those children covered by the strategy who have family members in the United Kingdom and those who do not;
 - (b) plans for coordinating operational activity with, and learning best practice from, the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme for the purposes of—
 - (i) expediting a speedy and safe transfer to the United Kingdom of the children who have been identified for resettlement in the United Kingdom under section 67 of this Act; and
 - (ii) involving local authorities in assessments prior to the arrival of those children, to ensure that safeguarding and other duties are fulfilled;
 - (c) plans for the publication of monthly updates on the progress of the strategy;
 - (d) plans to ensure that the Children's Commissioners of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are able to make representations on behalf of children relocated under section 67 of this Act, as part of their statutory duty under section 2 of the Children Act 2004 (primary function: children's rights, views and interests), and for the government to consult with the Children's Commissioners of other countries about those countries' arrangements for the safeguarding of unaccompanied refugee children living in those countries;
 - (e) plans to provide an annual update to Parliament on the arrangements made to support refugee children in the United Kingdom covered by the strategy, which must include details of funding provided, staff deployed, local authorities involved and those children's legal status.”

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21 September 2016
