

# WRITTEN EVIDENCE SUBMITTED BY THE ALICE BARKER TRUST (CSWB 18)

ADVICE & ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE  
DISABLED, ILL, DYING OR NEWLY BEREAVED

Eric Hardy, 03 April 1920 to 08 April 2001, DPSW (LSE) Hon PhD (UPS) Psychiatric & Hospice Social Worker  
And Kate Davies, 31 October 1921 to 24 January 2015, SRN SROT Pioneer of Occupational Therapy,  
Inspired our pioneering work through their creative, inspirational and exceptionally committed service to others.

## **Children and Social Work Bill:**

### **Power to test different ways of working (new clauses 2 to 9).**

01. We have not examined arguments for and against local authorities being able to avoid statutory duties towards children. It sounds horrific, not least as MPs are failing to put an abrupt end to much child abuse. On that I have had letters published in the Yorkshire Post - 29.08.2014, 09.01.2015 and 10.03.2015.

02. What we must state is that it is fundamental to any civilised society, that it protect all of its children.

03. In 1991, the UK ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to breach that, as has happened this year with young unaccompanied child refugees with families in the UK, would again be a breach of international law.

04. Communities Secretary Sajid Javid MP, recently made a call for public servants and local politicians to demonstrate that they uphold values which form the "building blocks of our society", including "freedom from abuse" and "respect for the law, even if you think the law is an ass".

05. It is deeply disturbing that we have to ask the government to uphold the law.

06. It is deeply disturbing that we have to ask the government to protect all children.

07. The costs of perpetuating harm to children, is more financially costly in the long term, than providing them with essential support and encouragement, when they are most vulnerable.

08. That is not done, in terms of recruiting, retaining and supporting foster parents and adopters, hence the frightening numbers of placement breakdowns.

09. If the finances cannot be found to provide all necessary help to our children, political priorities must be distorted and MPs will have lost the plot, in terms of demonstrating morality. That means Sajid Javid (above) is preaching to the wrong people and MPs must take their own medicine.

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*December 2016*