CLIC Sargent submission to Children and Social Work Bill Committee
December 2016

Introduction
CLIC Sargent is the UK’s leading charity for children and young people with cancer, and their families. Last year we helped around 7,100 young cancer patients and their families – more than ever before.

When cancer strikes young lives CLIC Sargent helps families limit the damage cancer causes beyond their health. We provide specialist support, to help and guide each young cancer patient and their family. We will fight tirelessly for them, individually, locally and nationally, so that they can focus on the important things.

We deliver services such as nurses, social workers, our Homes from Home across the UK and a financial grants programme to help families limit the damage cancer causes beyond their health.

Part 2 of the Children and Social Work Bill
A key part of the support we offer young cancer patients and their families is through our social care programme. In England CLIC Sargent employs around 120 full time equivalent children’s and young people’s social workers to support young cancer patients and their families with anything they might need, including information on accessing financial support and emotional support. All of our social workers are Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered and are required to renew this registration, demonstrating their continued professional development according to the current HCPC rules.

As a voluntary sector organisation that employs social workers who do not carry out statutory social work our specific submission to the Public Bill Committee will focus on Part 2 of the Bill and the regulation of social workers in England.

Please see below for the specific points we wish to raise with the Committee which we would like the Government to address:

- **Potential for a fragmented system of accreditation of social workers** – CLIC Sargent has concerns that the new system of assessment and accreditation as set out in Clauses 38 and 39 of the Bill runs the risk of creating a two tier system of qualified social workers in between the statutory and voluntary sectors. We are concerned that this could impede movement of social workers between the statutory and voluntary sectors and therefore have a negative impact on the service delivery of CLIC Sargent’s social care programme. There is equally a risk of a two tier system between child and family practitioners and social workers who primarily work with young people and adults. CLIC Sargent employs social workers in both specialisms to provide cancer support for the 0-15 and 16-24 age groups. We are concerned that a differential approach to accreditation could affect the value placed on working with young people and young adults, the attractiveness of adult specialist posts and the
employability of social workers who have specialised in working with young people and young adults. It could also impede the movement of skilled social workers between specialisms.

- **New accreditation process** – if a new accreditation system is created following the passage of the legislation we are keen to find out more about what resources and support would be available for voluntary sector organisations that employ social workers to enable them to effectively implement the new accreditation process. We know that there have been learnings from pilots in the statutory sector on accreditation for children and family practitioners but we are keen to find out how those learnings may apply to voluntary sector organisations.

- **Voluntary sector social workers being part of the statutory rollout** – in order to best assess how a new accreditation scheme may impact on social workers in the voluntary sector we would recommend the inclusion of a small group of voluntary sector practice leaders, practice managers and social workers to be taken through accreditation as part of the statutory rollout. This would enable learning from the process and CLIC Sargent should be able to support this action with a representative group of HCPC registered social care staff.

For more information please contact CLIC Sargent Head of Policy and Public Affairs Clare Laxton on clare.laxton@clicsargent.org.uk or 07730 537 003