Carers (Scotland) Bill

Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland

I am writing on behalf of AHDS (Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland) to highlight concern about a single element of the Bill – Young Carer’s Statement as set out in Chapter 2 of the Bill.

In the Government’s consultation in January 2014 it was made entirely clear (paragraph 23 on page 12) that the Carer’s Support Plan would not apply to young carers as their wellbeing would be assessed under the GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) framework and potentially through a Child’s Plan as provided for in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This is a position we would support.

The Carer’s Bill now being considered has stepped away from that and seeks to introduce a Young Carer’s Statement which we believe undermines the approach set out in the CYP Act and creates an unnecessary duplication of bureaucracy. In addition to creating additional workload for practitioners it risks causing considerable confusion for them and for young carers.

AHDS is a professional association representing school leaders in primary, nursery and special schools. As this is likely to create greater burdens for colleagues in secondary schools I expect similar concerns will have been raised with you by my secondary colleagues.

Greg Dempster
General Secretary
Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland