

Parliamentary Bureau – Designation of a Bill at Stage 1

Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

1. The Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 17 June 2025 by the First Minister, John Swinney MSP, and supported by the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise, Natalie Don-Innes MSP.

Discussion

2. The Bill makes changes to the services and support provided to people who are in the children's care system, or have ever had experience of that system. Those changes are being made following the Scottish Government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the Independent Care Review (also referred to as "The Promise") by 2030. The Bill also changes who is responsible for children's services planning, so that integration joint boards will be responsible alongside local authorities and health boards.
3. The Bill falls within the remit of the following committees—

Education, Children and Young People Committee

The remit of the Education, Children and Young People Committee includes to consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. The children's care system and The Promise fall within the responsibility of the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise, who supports the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (although the Minister reports directly to the First Minister on The Promise). The remit of the Education, Children and Young People Committee is therefore engaged.

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

The remit of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee includes to consider and report on matters relating to human rights. The Bill makes provision in relation to the rights of people who are in, or have ever been in, the children's care system. The changes in particular relate to children's rights under the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). As such, the remit of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee is engaged.

4. It is understood that the Education, Children and Young People Committee has the main interest in the Bill. Lack of formal designation does not, of course, prevent any other committee from considering the Bill if it subsequently decides to do so.

Recommendation

5. The Bureau is invited to consider recommending to the Parliament by motion that it agrees, under Rule 9.6.1, that the Education, Children and Young People Committee be designated as lead committee.

6. A draft motion can be found below.

Draft Parliamentary Bureau motion on the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill:

Designation of Lead Committee – That the Parliament agrees that the Education, Children and Young People Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1.

Parliamentary Business Team
June 2025