

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 March 2025

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

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Summary

This report sets out a summary of the proposed Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill and the implications for Medway Council.

1. Recommendation

1.1. The Committee is asked to note the potential changes to the councils' statutory duties and operational priorities proposed by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill.

2. Background

2.1. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill was introduced in Parliament on Tuesday 17th December 2024. An amendment was tabled on 28th January 2025 regarding the teacher pay measure.

2.2. The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is proposed as a key step towards delivering the government's Opportunity Mission to break the link between young people's background and their future success. It seeks to put in place a package of support to drive high and rising standards throughout education and care systems so that every child can achieve and thrive. It aims to protect children at risk of abuse, stopping vulnerable children falling through cracks in services, and deliver a core guarantee of high standards with space for innovation in every child's education.

The ambitions of the Bill are set out in seven key parts:

- Making a child-centred government
- Keeping families together and children safe

- Supporting children with care experience to thrive
- Cracking down on excessive profit making
- Driving high and rising standards for every child
- Removing barriers to opportunity in schools
- Creating a safer and higher quality education system for every child

3. Advice and analysis

3.1. The attached presentation outlines the key proposals.

3.2. Officers will present the attached slides in the meeting, with a focus on the considerations for Medway.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1. There are no direct legal and financial implications from this information report

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill presentation

Background papers

None