



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Adoption and Children Bill  
Notice of Amendments tabled on  
1 February 2022 for Consideration Stage

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**New Clause**

After clause 3 insert -

**‘Provision of specialist support services for child victims of domestic abuse**

**3A.**—(1) Each Health and Social Care Trust must in exercising its functions take all reasonable steps to secure the provision of sufficient specialist support services to meet the needs of children affected by domestic abuse within its area.

(2) Each Health and Social Care Trust must co-operate with another relevant public authority insofar as it is necessary for it to do so in order to secure the provision of—

- (a) sufficient specialist support services to meet the needs of children affected by domestic abuse within its area; and
- (b) sufficient specialist support services within that other relevant public authority’s area to meet the needs of children affected by domestic abuse.

(3) When performing its duties under this section, each Health and Social Care Trust and relevant public authorities must have regard to any guidance issued by the Department of Health under subsection (4).

(4) The Department of Health may issue guidance to Health and Social Care Trusts and relevant public authorities on their duties under this section.

(5) Guidance issued by the Department of Health under subsection (4) may, in particular, give guidance on—

- (a) what constitutes sufficient specialist services; and
- (b) what constitutes reasonable steps to secure the provision of sufficient specialist services. ’

*Ms Paula Bradshaw*