



Department for
**Employment
and Learning**

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Dear *Kathy*

Private Member's Bill – Children Services Co-operation

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 February 2015 concerning a call for evidence on the above matter.

The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) welcomes approaches that will lead to real and sustained improvements in services for children and young people and therefore it is essential that any new legislative requirements support such change.

In recent years, the Executive has made some progress in moving towards more effective working across government, including with other public sector providers, in seeking to achieve more successful outcomes. In considering the proposed Bill, it should be borne in mind that the Executive's Delivering Social Change structures, which are supported by the Department for Employment and Learning, remain the key strategic focus of Executive efforts to undertake more successful cross Departmental working in order to deliver more effective public services.

Also, against a background of the very significant forthcoming public sector reform and restructuring, it is critical that the Bill complements efforts in taking forward and bedding-in the new reforms so that more effective and efficient services are delivered.

The Bill covers services to children and young people, which may include all young people up to age 25, and is therefore potentially relevant across all of this Department's provision. Whilst further clarity around the intent behind the Bill may be needed, it appears to have the potential to create new public sector structures and financial arrangements which could place additional demands on Departments' resources, as well as those of other affected public sector bodies. If the Bill is enacted, its immediate impact on the Department for Employment and Learning is likely to be in key areas of policy development and service provision. This would



include further education, youth training/apprenticeships, careers advice/support and provision under the Pathways to Success Strategy, as well as the European Social Fund.

The Minister for Employment and Learning has agreed that DEL officials will support and inform their OFMDFM colleagues' consideration of the Bill with regard to its potential impact on the Department for Employment and Learning. This will help in developing the Executive's understanding of and position on the content of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,



FIONA STANLEY
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

cc Committee Clerk, Committee for Employment and Learning