



Children (Scotland) Act 1995

1995 CHAPTER 36

PART II

PROMOTION OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE BY LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND BY CHILDREN'S HEARINGS ETC.

CHAPTER I

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Introductory

16 Welfare of child and consideration of his views

- (1) Where under or by virtue of this Part of this Act, a children's hearing decide, or a court determines, any matter with respect to a child the welfare of that child throughout his childhood shall be their or its paramount consideration.
- (2) In the circumstances mentioned in subsection (4) below, a children's hearing or as the case may be the sheriff, taking account of the age and maturity of the child concerned, shall so far as practicable—
 - (a) give him an opportunity to indicate whether he wishes to express his views;
 - (b) if he does so wish, give him an opportunity to express them; and
 - (c) have regard to such views as he may express;and without prejudice to the generality of this subsection a child twelve years of age or more shall be presumed to be of sufficient age and maturity to form a view.
- (3) In the circumstances mentioned in subsection (4)(a)(i) or (ii) or (b) of this section, no requirement or order so mentioned shall be made with respect to the child concerned unless the children's hearing consider, or as the case may be the sheriff considers, that it would be better for the child that the requirement or order be made than that none should be made at all.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (4) The circumstances to which subsection (2) above refers are that—
- (a) the children’s hearing—
 - (i) are considering whether to make, or are reviewing, a supervision requirement;
 - (ii) are considering whether to grant a warrant under subsection (1) of section 66, or subsection (4) or (7) of section 69, of this Act or to provide under subsection (4) of the said section 66 for the continuation of a warrant;
 - (iii) are engaged in providing advice under section 60(10) of this Act; or
 - (iv) are drawing up a report under section 73(13) of this Act;
 - (b) the sheriff is considering—
 - (i) whether to make, vary or discharge a parental responsibilities order, a child assessment order or an exclusion order;
 - (ii) whether to vary or discharge a child protection order; (iia) whether to grant a warrant under section 66 of this Act; or
 - (iii) on appeal, whether to make such substitution as is mentioned in section 51(5)(c)(iii) of this Act; or
 - (c) the sheriff is otherwise disposing of an appeal against a decision of a children’s hearing.
- (5) If, for the purpose of protecting members of the public from serious harm (whether or not physical harm)—
- (a) a children’s hearing consider it necessary to make a decision under or by virtue of this Part of this Act which (but for this paragraph) would not be consistent with their affording paramountcy to the consideration mentioned in subsection (1) above, they may make that decision; or
 - (b) a court considers it necessary to make a determination under or by virtue of Chapters 1 to 3 of this Part of this Act which (but for this paragraph) would not be consistent with its affording such paramountcy, it may make that determination.

17 Duty of local authority to child looked after by them

- (1) Where a child is looked after by a local authority they shall, in such manner as the Secretary of State may prescribe—
- (a) safeguard and promote his welfare (which shall, in the exercise of their duty to him be their paramount concern);
 - (b) make such use of services available for children cared for by their own parents as appear to the authority reasonable in his case; and
 - (c) take such steps to promote, on a regular basis, personal relations and direct contact between the child and any person with parental responsibilities in relation to him as appear to them to be, having regard to their duty to him under paragraph (a) above, both practicable and appropriate.
- (2) The duty under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) above includes, without prejudice to that paragraph’s generality, the duty of providing advice and assistance with a view to preparing the child for when he is no longer looked after by a local authority.

- (3) Before making any decision with respect to a child whom they are looking after, or proposing to look after, a local authority shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, ascertain the views of—
- (a) the child;
 - (b) his parents;
 - (c) any person who is not a parent of his but who has parental rights in relation to him; and
 - (d) any other person whose views the authority consider to be relevant, regarding the matter to be decided.
- (4) In making any such decision a local authority shall have regard so far as practicable—
- (a) to the views (if he wishes to express them) of the child concerned, taking account of his age and maturity;
 - (b) to such views of any person mentioned in subsection (3)(b) to (d) above as they have been able to ascertain; and
 - (c) to the child’s religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.
- (5) If, for the purpose of protecting members of the public from serious harm (whether or not physical harm) a local authority consider it necessary to exercise, in a manner which (but for this paragraph) would not be consistent with their duties under this section, their powers with respect to a child whom they are looking after, they may do so.
- (6) Any reference in this Chapter of this Part to a child who is “looked after” by a local authority, is to a child—
- (a) for whom they are providing accommodation under section 25 of this Act;
 - (b) who is subject to a supervision requirement and in respect of whom they are the relevant local authority;
 - (c) who is subject to an order made, or authorisation or warrant granted, by virtue of Chapter 2, 3 or 4 of this Part of this Act, being an order, authorisation or warrant in accordance with which they have responsibilities as respects the child; or
 - (d) who is subject to an order in accordance with which, by virtue of regulations made under section 33(1) of this Act, they have such responsibilities.
- (7) Regulations made by the Secretary of State under subsection (1) above may, without prejudice to the generality of that subsection, include—
- (a) provision as to the circumstances in which the child may be cared for by the child’s own parents; and
 - (b) procedures which shall be followed in the event of the child’s death.

18 Duty of persons with parental responsibilities to notify change of address to local authority looking after child

- (1) Where a child is being looked after by a local authority, each natural person who has parental responsibilities in relation to the child shall, without unreasonable delay, inform that authority whenever the person changes his address.

- (2) A person who knowingly fails to comply with the requirement imposed by subsection (1) above shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of level 1 on the standard scale; but in any proceedings under this section it shall be a defence that—
- (a) the change was to the same address as that to which another person who at that time had parental responsibilities in relation to the child was changing; and
 - (b) the accused had reasonable cause to believe that the other person had informed the authority of the change of address of them both.

Provision of services

19 Local authority plans for services for children

- (1) Within such period after the coming into force of this section as the Secretary of State may direct, each local authority shall prepare and publish a plan for the provision of relevant services for or in respect of children in their area.
- (2) References to “relevant services” in this section are to services provided by a local authority under or by virtue of—
 - (a) this Part of this Act; or
 - (b) any of the enactments mentioned in section 5(1B)(a) to (o) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (enactments in respect of which Secretary of State may issue directions to local authorities as to the exercise of their functions).
- (3) A local authority shall from time to time review the plan prepared by them under subsection (1) above (as modified, or last substituted, under this subsection) and may, having regard to that review, prepare and publish—
 - (a) modifications (or as the case may be further modifications) to the plan reviewed; or
 - (b) a plan in substitution for that plan.
- (4) The Secretary of State may, subject to subsection (5) below, issue directions as to the carrying out by a local authority of their functions under subsection (3) above.
- (5) In preparing any plan, or carrying out any review, under this section a local authority shall consult—
 - (a) every Health Board and National Health Service trust providing services under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 in the area of the authority;
 - (b) such voluntary organisations as appear to the authority—
 - (i) to represent the interests of persons who use or are likely to use relevant services in that area; or
 - (ii) to provide services in that area which, were they to be provided by the authority, might be categorised as relevant services;
 - (c) the Principal Reporter appointed under section 127 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;
 - (d) the chairman of the children’s panel for that area;
 - (e) such housing associations, voluntary housing agencies and other bodies as appear to the authority to provide housing in that area; and
 - (f) such other persons as the Secretary of State may direct.

20 Publication of information about services for children

- (1) A local authority shall, within such period after the coming into force of this section as the Secretary of State may direct, and thereafter from time to time, prepare and publish information—
 - (a) about relevant services which are provided by them for or in respect of children (including, without prejudice to that generality, services for or in respect of disabled children or children otherwise affected by disability) in their area or by any other local authority for those children; and
 - (b) where they consider it appropriate, about services which are provided by voluntary organisations and by other persons for those children, being services which the authority have power to provide and which, were they to do so, they would provide as relevant services.
- (2) In subsection (1) above, “relevant services” has the same meaning as in section 19 of this Act.

21 Co-operation between authorities

- (1) Where it appears to a local authority that an appropriate person could, by doing certain things, help in the exercise of any of their functions under this Part of this Act, they may, specifying what those things are, request the help of that person.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) above, persons who are appropriate are—
 - (a) any other local authority;
 - (b) a health board constituted under section 2 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978;
 - (c) a national health service trust established under section 12A of that Act; and
 - (d) any person authorised by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section;and an appropriate person receiving such a request shall comply with it provided that it is compatible with their own statutory or other duties and obligations and (in the case of a person not a natural person) does not unduly prejudice the discharge of any of their functions.

22 Promotion of welfare of children in need

- (1) A local authority shall—
 - (a) safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need; and
 - (b) so far as is consistent with that duty, promote the upbringing of such children by their families,by providing a range and level of services appropriate to the children’s needs.
- (2) In providing services under subsection (1) above, a local authority shall have regard so far as practicable to each child’s religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above—
 - (a) a service may be provided under that subsection—
 - (i) for a particular child;
 - (ii) if provided with a view to safeguarding or promoting his welfare, for his family; or

- (iii) if provided with such a view, for any other member of his family; and
 - (b) the services mentioned in that subsection may include giving assistance in kind or, in exceptional circumstances, in cash.
- (4) Assistance such as is mentioned in subsection (3)(b) above may be given unconditionally or subject to conditions as to the repayment, in whole or in part, of it or of its value; but before giving it, or imposing such conditions, the local authority shall have regard to the means of the child concerned and of his parents and no condition shall require repayment by a person at any time when in receipt of—
- (a) income support or family credit payable under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992; or
 - (b) an income-based jobseeker’s allowance payable under the Jobseekers Act 1995.

23 Children affected by disability

- (1) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of section 22 of this Act, services provided by a local authority under that subsection shall be designed—
- (a) to minimise the effect on any—
 - (i) disabled child who is within the authority’s area, of his disability; and
 - (ii) child who is within that area and is affected adversely by the disability of any other person in his family, of that other person’s disability; and
 - (b) to give those children the opportunity to lead lives which are as normal as possible.
- (2) For the purposes of this Chapter of this Part a person is disabled if he is chronically sick or disabled or suffers from mental disorder (within the meaning of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984).
- (3) Where requested to do so by a child’s parent or guardian a local authority shall, for the purpose of facilitating the discharge of such duties as the authority may have under section 22(1) of this Act (whether or not by virtue of subsection (1) above) as respects the child, carry out an assessment of the child, or of any other person in the child’s family, to determine the needs of the child in so far as attributable to his disability or to that of the other person.

24 Assessment of ability of carers to provide care for disabled children

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, in any case where—
- (a) a local authority carry out under section 23(3) of this Act an assessment to determine the needs of a disabled child, and
 - (b) a person (in this section referred to as the “carer”) provides or intends to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for that child,
- the carer may request the local authority, before they make a decision as to the discharge of any duty they may have under section 2(1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 or under section 22(1) of this Act as respects the child, to carry out an assessment of the carer’s ability to continue to provide, or as the case may be to provide, care for that child; and if the carer makes such a request, the local authority shall carry out such an assessment and shall have regard to the results of it in making any such decision.

- (2) No request may be made under subsection (1) above by a person who provides or will provide the care in question—
- (a) under or by virtue of a contract of employment or other contract; or
 - (b) as a volunteer for a voluntary organisation.
- (3) Where an assessment of a carer’s ability to continue to provide, or as the case may be to provide, care for a child is carried out under subsection (1) above, there shall, as respects the child, be no requirement under section 8 of the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986 (carer’s ability to continue to provide care to be considered in any decision as respects provision of certain services for disabled persons) to have regard to that ability.
- (4) In this section “person” means a natural person.

25 Provision of accommodation for children, etc

- (1) A local authority shall provide accommodation for any child who, residing or having been found within their area, appears to them to require such provision because—
- (a) no-one has parental responsibility for him;
 - (b) he is lost or abandoned; or
 - (c) the person who has been caring for him is prevented, whether or not permanently and for whatever reason, from providing him with suitable accommodation or care.
- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) above, a local authority may provide accommodation for any child within their area if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote his welfare.
- (3) A local authority may provide accommodation for any person within their area who is at least eighteen years of age but not yet twenty-one, if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote his welfare.
- (4) A local authority providing accommodation under subsection (1) above for a child who is ordinarily resident in the area of another local authority shall notify the other authority, in writing, that such provision is being made; and the other authority may at any time take over the provision of accommodation for the child.
- (5) Before providing a child with accommodation under this section, a local authority shall have regard, so far as practicable, to his views (if he wishes to express them), taking account of his age and maturity; and without prejudice to the generality of this subsection a child twelve years of age or more shall be presumed to be of sufficient age and maturity to form a view.
- (6) Subject to subsection (7) below—
- (a) a local authority shall not provide accommodation under this section for a child if any person who—
 - (i) has parental responsibilities in relation to him and the parental rights mentioned in section 2(1)(a) and (b) of this Act; and
 - (ii) is willing and able either to provide, or to arrange to have provided, accommodation for him,
 objects; and
 - (b) any such person may at any time remove the child from accommodation which has been provided by the local authority under this section.

- (7) Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) above does not apply—
- (a) as respects any child who, being at least sixteen years of age, agrees to be provided with accommodation under this section; or
 - (b) where a residence order has been made in favour of one or more persons and that person has, or as the case may be those persons have, agreed that the child should be looked after in accommodation provided by, or on behalf of, the local authority;
- and paragraph (b) of that subsection does not apply where accommodation has been provided for a continuous period of at least six months (whether by a single local authority or, by virtue of subsection (4) above, by more than one local authority), unless the person removing the child has given the local authority for the time being making such provision at least fourteen days’ notice in writing of his intention to remove the child.
- (8) In this Part of this Act, accommodation means, except where the context otherwise requires, accommodation provided for a continuous period of more than twenty-four hours.

26 Manner of provision of accommodation to child looked after by local authority

- (1) A local authority may provide accommodation for a child looked after by them by—
- (a) placing him with—
 - (i) a family (other than such family as is mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) of the definition of that expression in section 93(1) of this Act);
 - (ii) a relative of his; or
 - (iii) any other suitable person,
 on such terms as to payment, by the authority or otherwise, as the authority may determine;
 - (b) maintaining him in a residential establishment; or
 - (c) making such other arrangements as appear to them to be appropriate, including (without prejudice to the generality of this paragraph) making use of such services as are referred to in section 17(1)(b) of this Act.
- (2) A local authority may arrange for a child whom they are looking after—
- (a) to be placed, under subsection (1)(a) above, with a person in England and Wales or in Northern Ireland; or
 - (b) to be maintained in any accommodation in which—
 - (i) a local authority in England and Wales could maintain him by virtue of section 23(2)(b) to (e) of the Children Act 1989; or
 - (ii) an authority within the meaning of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 could maintain him by virtue of Article 27(2)(b) to (e) of that Order.

27 Day care for pre-school and other children

- (1) Each local authority shall provide such day care for children in need within their area who—
- (a) are aged five or under; and
 - (b) have not yet commenced attendance at a school,

as is appropriate; and they may provide such day care for children within their area who satisfy the conditions mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) but are not in need.

(2) A local authority may provide facilities (including training, advice, guidance and counselling) for those—

- (a) caring for children in day care; or
- (b) who at any time accompany such children while they are in day care.

(3) Each local authority shall provide for children in need within their area who are in attendance at a school such care—

- (a) outside school hours; or
- (b) during school holidays,

as is appropriate; and they may provide such care for children within their area who are in such attendance but are not in need.

(4) In this section—

“day care” means any form of care provided for children during the day, whether or not it is provided on a regular basis; and

“school” has the meaning given by section 135(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.

28 Removal of power to arrange for emigration of children

Section 23 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (which provides a power for local authorities and voluntary associations, with the consent of the Secretary of State, to make arrangements for the emigration of children in their care) shall cease to have effect.

Advice and assistance for young persons formerly looked after by local authorities

29 After-care

(1) A local authority shall, unless they are satisfied that his welfare does not require it, advise, guide and assist any person in their area over school age but not yet nineteen years of age who, at the time when he ceased to be of school age or at any subsequent time was, but who is no longer, looked after by a local authority.

(2) If a person within the area of a local authority is at least nineteen, but is less than twenty-one, years of age and is otherwise a person such as is described in subsection (1) above, he may by application to the authority request that they provide him with advice, guidance and assistance; and they may, unless they are satisfied that his welfare does not require it, grant that application.

(3) Assistance given under subsection (1) or (2) above may include assistance in kind or in cash.

(4) Where a person—

- (a) over school age ceases to be looked after by a local authority; or
- (b) described in subsection (1) above is being provided with advice, guidance or assistance by a local authority,

they shall, if he proposes to reside in the area of another local authority, inform that other local authority accordingly provided that he consents to their doing so.

30 Financial assistance towards expenses of education or training and removal of power to guarantee indentures etc

- (1) Without prejudice to section 12 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (general social welfare services of local authorities), a local authority may make—
 - (a) grants to any relevant person in their area to enable him to meet expenses connected with his receiving education or training; and
 - (b) contributions to the accommodation and maintenance of any such person in any place near where he may be—
 - (i) employed, or seeking employment; or
 - (ii) receiving education or training.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, a person is a relevant person for the purposes of subsection (1) above if—
 - (a) he is over school age but not yet twenty-one years of age; and
 - (b) at the time when he ceased to be of school age or at any subsequent time he was, but he is no longer, looked after by a local authority.
- (3) A local authority making grants under paragraph (a), or contributions under paragraph (b)(ii), of subsection (1) above to a person may continue to make them, though he has in the meantime attained the age of twenty-one years, until he completes the course of education or training in question; but if, after he has attained that age, the course is interrupted by any circumstances they may only so continue if he resumes the course as soon as is practicable.
- (4) Section 25 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (which empowers a local authority to undertake obligations by way of guarantee under any indentures or other deed of apprenticeship or articles of clerkship entered into by a person in their care or under supplemental deeds or articles) shall cease to have effect.

Miscellaneous and General

31 Review of case of child looked after by local authority

- (1) Without prejudice to their duty under section 17(1)(a) of this Act, it shall be the duty of a local authority who are looking after a child to review his case at such intervals as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The Secretary of State may prescribe—
 - (a) different intervals in respect of the first such review and in respect of subsequent reviews;
 - (b) the manner in which cases are to be reviewed under this section;
 - (c) the considerations to which the local authority are to have regard in reviewing cases under this section.

32 Removal of child from residential establishment

A local authority, notwithstanding any agreement made in connection with the placing of a child in a residential establishment under this Chapter, or Chapter 4, of this Part of this Act by them—

- (a) may, at any time; and
- (b) shall, if requested to do so by the person responsible for the establishment,

remove a child so placed.

33 Effect of orders etc. made in different parts of the United Kingdom

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations providing for a prescribed order which is made by a court in England and Wales or in Northern Ireland, if that order appears to him to correspond generally to an order of a kind which may be made under this Part of this Act or to a supervision requirement, to have effect in prescribed circumstances and for prescribed purposes of the law of Scotland as if it were an order of that kind or, as the case may be, as if it were a supervision requirement.
- (2) The Secretary of State may make regulations providing—
 - (a) for a prescribed order made under this Part of this Act by a court in Scotland; or
 - (b) for a supervision requirement,
 if that order or requirement appears to him to correspond generally to an order of a kind which may be made under any provision of law in force in England and Wales or in Northern Ireland, to have effect in prescribed circumstances and for prescribed purposes of the law of England and Wales, or as the case may be of Northern Ireland, as if it were an order of that kind.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (1) or (2)(a) above may provide for the order given effect for prescribed purposes to cease to have effect for those purposes, or for the purposes of the law of the place where the order was made, if prescribed conditions are satisfied.
- (4) Where a child who is subject to a supervision requirement is lawfully taken to live in England and Wales or in Northern Ireland, the requirement shall cease to have effect if prescribed conditions are satisfied.
- (5) Regulations under this section may modify any provision of—
 - (a) the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 or this Act in any application which the Acts may respectively have, by virtue of the regulations, in relation to an order made otherwise than in Scotland;
 - (b) the Children Act 1989 or the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 in any application which those Acts may respectively have, by virtue of the regulations, in relation to an order prescribed under subsection (2)(a) above or to a supervision requirement; or
 - (c) the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 or the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968 in any application which they may respectively have, by virtue of the regulations, in relation to an order so prescribed or to a supervision requirement.

34 Registration and inspection of certain residential grant-aided and independent schools etc

- (1) Part IV of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (which makes provision as regards residential and other establishments) shall be amended in accordance with this section.
- (2) In section 61 (restriction on carrying on of establishments)—
 - (a) for subsection (1) there shall be substituted—

“(1) In so far as the context admits, the following provisions of this Part of this Act apply—

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (a) except in the case mentioned in paragraph (b) below, to any residential or other establishment the whole or a substantial part of whose functions is to provide persons with such personal care or support, whether or not combined with board and whether for reward or not, as may be required for the purposes of this Act or of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;
 - (b) in the case of a residential establishment which is a grant-aided or independent school (as respectively defined in section 135(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980), to that establishment if any part of its functions are as described in paragraph (a) above.”;
 - (b) in subsection (1A)—
 - (i) in paragraph (a) of the definition of “establishment”, for the words “sections 61A and” there shall be substituted “section”; and
 - (ii) at the end of that definition there shall be added “but an establishment is not excluded for those purposes by paragraph (a) above by reason only of its being registrable by the Registrar of Independent Schools in Scotland.”; and
 - (c) in subsection (2), for the words “section 62(8) and (8A) below” there shall be substituted “sections 61A(1) and 62(8) and (8A) of this Act”.
- (3) For section 61A there shall be substituted—

“61A Voluntary registration

- (1) A grant-aided or independent school, provided it is not a residential establishment the whole or a substantial part of whose functions is as described in subsection (1)(a) of section 61 of this Act, may be carried on by a person without his being registered in respect of it as mentioned in subsection (2) of that section; but he may if he wishes apply in accordance with section 62, or as the case may be 63, of this Act for such registration.
 - (2) Sections 62(8) and (8A) and 65 of this Act shall not apply in relation to establishments as respects which registration has been by virtue of subsection (1) above.”.
- (4) After section 62 there shall be inserted—

“62A Certificate of registration as respects grant-aided or independent school

A certificate of registration granted under section 62 of this Act as respects an establishment which is a grant-aided, or independent, school shall relate to the whole of the establishment except so much as is used exclusively for educational purposes.”.

- (5) In section 65(1) (removal of persons from establishment), after the word “ought”—
 - (a) where it first occurs, there shall be inserted “(by virtue of subsections (2) and (3)) of section 61 of this Act”;
 - (b) where it occurs for the second time, there shall be inserted “(by virtue of the said subsections (2) and (3))”.
- (6) For section 67 there shall be substituted—

“67 Entry to examine state and management of establishments etc

(1) A person duly authorised by a local authority may in the area of that authority, at all reasonable times, enter, for a relevant purpose—

- (a) any establishment as regards which a person is registered, or ought (by virtue of subsections (2) and (3) of section 61 of this Act) to be registered, under section 62 of this Act; or
- (b) any place which the person so authorised has reasonable cause to believe is being used as such an establishment,

and subsections (2A) to (2D), (4) and (5) of section 6 of this Act shall apply in respect of a person so authorised as they apply in respect of a person duly authorised under subsection (1) of that section.

(2) “Relevant purpose” in subsection (1) above means—

- (a) the purpose of making such examinations into the state and management of the establishment or place, and the condition and treatment of the persons in it, as the person so authorised thinks necessary; or
- (b) the purpose of inspecting any records, or registers (in whatever form they are held) relating to the place, or to any person for whom, under or by virtue of this Act, section 7 (functions of local authorities) or 8 (provision of after-care services) of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984, or Part II of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, services are being or have been provided in the place.”.

35 Welfare of children in accommodation provided for purposes of school attendance

After section 125 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 there shall be inserted—

“Children and young persons in accommodation

125A Welfare of children and young persons in accommodation provided for purposes of school attendance

Where, for the purposes of his being in attendance at a school, a child or young person is provided with residential accommodation, in a place in or outwith that school, by—

- (a) an education authority, the board of management of a self-governing school or the managers of a grant-aided or independent school; or
- (b) by any other person in pursuance of arrangements made by any such authority, board of management or managers,

the authority, board of management or managers in question shall have the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child or young person while he is so accommodated; and the powers of inspection exercisable by virtue of section 66(1) of this Act shall include the power to inspect the place to determine whether his welfare is adequately safeguarded and promoted there.”.

36 Welfare of certain children in hospitals and nursing homes etc

- (1) Where a child is provided with residential accommodation by a person mentioned in subsection (3) below and it appears to the person that the child either—
- (a) has had no parental contact for a continuous period of three months or more; or
 - (b) is likely to have no parental contact for a period which, taken with any immediately preceding period in which the child has had no such contact, will constitute a continuous period of three months or more,
- the person shall (whether or not the child has been, or will be, so accommodated throughout the continuous period) so notify the local authority in whose area the accommodation is provided.
- (2) A local authority receiving notification under subsection (1) above shall—
- (a) take such steps as are reasonably practicable to enable them to determine whether the child’s welfare is adequately safeguarded and promoted while he is so accommodated; and
 - (b) consider the extent to which (if at all) they should exercise any of their functions under this Act with respect to the child.
- (3) The persons are—
- (a) any health board constituted under section 2 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978;
 - (b) any national health service trust established under section 12A of that Act;
 - (c) any person carrying on—
 - (i) a private hospital registered under Part IV of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984; or
 - (ii) a nursing home in respect of which either he is registered under section 1(3) of the Nursing Homes Registration (Scotland) Act 1938 or exemption has been granted under section 6 or 7 of that Act.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1) above, a child has parental contact only when in the presence of a person having parental responsibilities in relation to him.
- (5) A person duly authorised by a local authority may in the area of that authority, at all reasonable times, enter for the purposes of subsection (2) above or of determining whether there has been compliance with subsection (1) above any such place as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) of subsection (3)(c) above and may for those purposes inspect any records or registers relating to that place; and subsections (2A) to (2D) and (4) of section 6 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (exercise of powers of entry and inspection) shall apply in respect of a person so authorised as they apply in respect of a person duly authorised under subsection (1) of that section.

37 Modification of provisions of Children Act 1989 regarding disqualification from registration as child minder etc

In paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 to the Children Act 1989 (which provides for regulations disqualifying certain persons from registration as a child minder or as a provider of day care for young children), at the end of sub-paragraph (1) there shall be added “unless he has—

- (a) disclosed the fact to the appropriate local authority; and
- (b) obtained their written consent.”.

38 Short-term refuges for children at risk of harm

(1) Where a child appears—

- (a) to a local authority to be at risk of harm, they may at the child’s request—
- (i) provide him with refuge in a residential establishment both controlled or managed by them and designated by them for the purposes of this paragraph; or
 - (ii) arrange for a person whose household is approved by virtue of section 5(3)(b) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 (provision for securing that persons are not placed in any household unless the household has prescribed approval) and is designated by them for the purposes of this paragraph, to provide him with refuge in that household,

for a period which does not exceed the relevant period;

- (b) to a person who carries on a residential establishment in respect of which the person is for the time being registered (as mentioned in section 61(2) of that Act), or to any person for the time being employed in the management of that establishment, to be at risk of harm, the person to whom the child so appears may at the child’s request provide him with refuge, for a period which does not exceed the relevant period, in the establishment but shall do so only if and to the extent that the local authority within whose area the establishment is situated have given their approval to the use of the establishment (or a part of the establishment) for the purposes of this paragraph.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision as to—

- (a) designation, for the purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) above, of establishments and households;
- (b) application for, the giving of and the withdrawal of, approval under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) above;
- (c) requirements (if any) which must be complied with while any such approval remains in force;
- (d) the performance by a person mentioned in the said paragraph (b) of anything to be done by him under that paragraph;
- (e) the performance by a local authority of their functions under this section; and
- (f) the giving, to such persons or classes of person as may be specified in the regulations, of notice as to the whereabouts of a child provided with refuge under this section,

and regulations made under this subsection may include such incidental and supplementary provisions as he thinks fit.

(3) While a child is being provided with refuge under, and in accordance with regulations made under, this section, none of the enactments mentioned in subsection (4) below shall apply in relation to him unless the commencement of the period of refuge has followed within two days of the termination of a prior period of refuge so provided to him by any person.

(4) The enactments are—

- (a) section 89 of this Act and, so far as it applies in relation to anything done in Scotland, section 83 of this Act; and
- (b) section 32(3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 (compelling, persuading, inciting or assisting any person to be absent from detention etc.), so far as it applies in relation to anything done in Scotland.

Status: *This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

- (5) References in this section to the relevant period shall be construed as references either to a period which does not exceed seven days or, in such exceptional circumstances as the Secretary of State may prescribe, to a period which does not exceed fourteen days.
- (6) A child who is provided with refuge for a period by virtue of such arrangements as are mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above shall not be regarded as a foster child for the purposes of the Foster Children (Scotland) Act 1984 by reason only of such provision.