

## **Schools still have a role to play in children's services – amendment to Education Bill restores duty to co-operate.**

Directors of Children's Services today celebrated a proposed amendment to the Education Bill to remove the clause lifting the duty to cooperate from schools. Laid by government minister Lord Hill, child protection expert Lord Laming and Lib Dem spokeswoman on children and families in the Lords, Lady Walmsley, the amendment signals government recognition that schools have a role to play in supporting vulnerable children.

**Matt Dunkley**, President of ADCS said:

"This amendment is immensely helpful – the removal of the duty to co-operate had, perhaps inadvertently, given some schools the message that they no longer had a role in supporting vulnerable children. This attitude threatened much of the partnership working that had been established in local areas over the last few years. Directors of Children's Services know the value of services working together to tackle complex issues in the lives of children and families and we are delighted that government are listening to our concerns."

"Restoring the duty makes clear that all schools have a crucial role to play in provision for vulnerable children, including special education needs and work with families with multiple problems. Nick Clegg cautioned that teachers must not be expected to be social workers or health workers and that is absolutely right, but they should work with those other professionals for the benefit of children and young people."

Notes to Editors:

- 1) The amendment to remove the clause ceasing the duty to co-operate and to have regard to the Children and Young People's Plan can be found here: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0098/amend/am098-a.htm>. it will be heard at the report stage of the Bill's progress through Parliament.
- 2) ADCS is the professional leadership association for Directors of Children's Services and their senior management teams.

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