



INFORMATION SHEET

Age Group: **Children**

Sheet Title: **The Children's Bill**

The Children's Bill had its second reading in the House of Lords on 13 September 2004. The Asperger's Syndrome Foundation welcomes this important legislation not only for children – in particular the most vulnerable, such as children with disabilities or cared-for children – but also their parents, whom Margaret Hodge describes as 'the most important people in children's lives'.

The Bill is a significant piece of legislation for users and care providers as it seeks to reconfigure service delivery so that every child can realise their full potential whilst also protecting the child. We have seen much publicity about 'reasonable chastisement' in the press. A central database (Clause 9) is envisaged where all practitioners can share data.

The Bill introduces a new Children's Commissioner for England.

Read the full debate by visiting the following web page:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm040913/debtext/40913-10.htm#column_1000

It will then go to Committee stage (no date as yet) followed by Report stage.

The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child is adopted by the Bill.

The Convention can be read by visiting the following web page:

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>

The Government Green Paper "Every Child Matters", sets out the background to the Government's proposals for reforming the delivery of services for children, young people and families.

The Green Paper is available from:

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