



NOTICE OF MOTION TO EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 19 APRIL 2023

Scottish Parliament Motion PE1979

Committee notes and supports the proposals of Scottish Parliament motion PE1979 [[Establish an independent inquiry and an independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies - Petitions \(parliament.scot\)](#)] calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to launch an independent inquiry to examine: concerns that allegations about child protection, child abuse, safeguarding, and children's rights have been mishandled by public bodies, including local authorities and the General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS); gaps in the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry; and establish an independent national whistleblowing officer for Education and Children's Services in Scotland to handle these enquiries in the future.

Committee notes that it has a statutory responsibility as a public body, in respect of the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.

Committee is committed to ensuring an organisational culture which prioritises and promotes the importance of safeguarding the welfare of children and adults at risk.

Committee is committed to protecting children, young people and adults at risk from abuse.

Committee is committed to ensuring all Council policies and procedures pertinent to statutory safeguarding responsibilities are designed, implemented, monitored and audited in an open, transparent, democratically accountable way.

Committee notes the remit and focus of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, established by the Scottish Government, has a remit to inquire into issues of historic abuse and specific to children in care.

Committee notes the Children and Young People's Commissioner annual report [[CYP-CS-AR-2022.pdf](#)], and in particular work to improve child protection and safeguarding (page 29).

Committee supports calls for strengthening of accountability, oversight and public scrutiny of systems for reporting disclosures to public bodies in Scotland, and how disclosures are handled, investigated, reported and recommendations from reports are implemented.

Committee welcomes the recent calls for the next phase of Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to look into concerns not yet investigated.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCLENNAN

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WARREN