

Parliamentary Bureau - Referral of draft proposal

Proposed Youth Work (Scotland) Bill

1. A draft proposal for a Youth Work (Scotland) Bill was lodged on 22 November 2024 by Martin Whitfield MSP.
2. The proposal is for a Bill to ensure accessible, well-funded, and high-quality youth work services across Scotland, supporting the holistic development, well-being, and social inclusion of young people, and ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of background or circumstance.
3. The draft proposal is accompanied by a consultation document which runs from 25 November 2024 to 21 February 2025.
4. In terms of Standing Orders (Rule 9.14.5) the Parliamentary Bureau is required to refer the draft proposal to a committee (or committees) within whose remit the subject matters falls.
5. This referral is for information only – there is no expectation that the committee will scrutinise or report on the draft proposal at this stage.

Discussion

6. The proposal falls within the remit of the following committee Education, Children and Young People Committee
7. The remit of the Education, Children and Young People Committee is to within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and matters relating to the Historical Abuse Inquiry, redress and languages falling within the responsibility of the Deputy First Minister.
8. The subject matter of the proposed Bill involves ensuring access for all young people in Scotland to quality youth work services. The proposal seeks to create a legal requirement for local authorities to ensure that youth work services are universally available, including universal, targeted, and detached youth work across various settings including schools and community spaces.
9. The draft proposal therefore engages the remit of the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

Recommendation

10. The Bureau is invited to refer the draft proposal on the Youth Work (Scotland) Bill to the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

Non-Government Bills Unit
9 December 2024