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Friday 30th January 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Prevent duty guidance – a consultation

4Children welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Home Office's consultation on the "prevent" duty which is being introduced as part of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill.

4Children is the national charity all about children and families. We have spearheaded a joined-up, integrated approach to children's services and work with a wide range of partners around the country to ensure children and families have access to the services and support they need in their communities. We run Sure Start Children's Centres as well as family and youth services across Britain. We develop, influence and shape national policy on all aspects of the lives of children, young people and families.

In this short response, we will briefly set out our views on the role of early years and childcare settings in carrying out the new "prevent" duty.

4Children recognises that early years and childcare settings, like all educational institutions, have an important role to play in preventing people from being drawn into terrorism. We are therefore supportive of the principle of early years and childcare settings being designated as a "specified authority" within legislation, and of their consequent inclusion in Schedule 3 of the Bill.

Furthermore, in order to ensure that the "prevent" duty operates effectively in an early years context, we would also emphasise the need for the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework to provide appropriate direction for practitioners on how to meet their new responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, including a clear indication of where this requires them to work in collaboration with other authorities.

If you have any further questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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