



Department for Education

Josh MacAlister OBE MP
Minister for Children and Families

Professor Alison Young
Commissioner for Public Law and the Law in Wales
Email to: Connor.Johnston@lawcommission.gov.uk

10 March 2026

Dear Professor Young,

The Government's Initial Response to the Law Commission's 'Disabled Children's Social Care' report

I am writing today in response to the [Law Commission's Disabled Children's Social Care final report](#), published on 16 September 2025, following an extensive review of the legal framework governing social care for disabled children in England. I would like to thank the Commission for its thorough work and for engaging so extensively with children, families and professionals throughout the review.

The Department for Education commissioned this review in April 2023 to bring much needed clarity to a legal framework that families and practitioners have long told us is too complex and difficult to navigate. The Commission's 40 recommendations provide an important foundation for improving the consistency, transparency and accessibility of support for disabled children and their families.

In line with the protocol agreed between the Lord Chancellor and the Law Commission, this letter constitutes the Department's initial response, provided within six months of publication. A full response will follow within twelve months and will set out which recommendations the Government accepts, rejects or accepts in a modified form, alongside any plans for implementation.

Over the coming months, we will engage closely with children, young people, families, local authorities, professionals and representative groups to ensure that our full response reflects a wide range of views and the lived experience of those most affected. This engagement will help us test the practical implications of the recommendations and consider how any changes to the law could best support effective practice on the ground.

Alongside this work, we believe the rollout of Family Help as part of the Families First Partnership (FFP) programme, backed by £2.4bn of funding over three years, is already beginning to deliver many of the intended outcomes of the report. Our wider reforms are designed to make a real and tangible difference to children and families, including disabled children. Our vision for Family Help is a seamless, non-stigmatising offer of support delivered by multi-disciplinary, community-based teams.

Support for families and child protection should be organised around the family, rather than requiring families to navigate multiple systems. We are taking significant steps to remove the stigma from asking for help, with more SEND professionals available through integrated front doors for families to access practical support without judgement or unnecessarily burdensome assessments. We also want to see quick and decisive action where appropriate, taken by expert child protection practitioners who are part of dedicated multi-agency teams.

The engagement highlighted above will sit alongside the Government's wider SEND reform activity, as on Monday 23rd February, we published [SEND reform: putting children and young people first - GOV.UK](#), launching a formal public consultation on our proposals to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, and their families. This builds on the National Conversation on SEND, which launched in December 2025, reaching over 8,000 children, parents, professionals and experts across the country.

We heard how the current system needs to work better for children and young people, work better for parents, work better for early years settings, schools and colleges, and work better for local authorities. We have used this feedback to inform designs of a system that provides everyone with the support and tools they need to achieve and thrive. The consultation period runs to 18th May. We will carefully consider the responses we receive, and their alignment to the Law Commission's recommendations, on the important intersection between the SEND system and children's social care for disabled children.

The Government remains firmly committed to creating a simpler, more consistent and more effective framework for disabled children's social care. The Law Commission's report is a significant contribution to that aim.

Thank you again for the Commission's work on this important review. We look forward to continuing constructive engagement as we develop our full response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh MacAlister', written in a cursive style.

Josh MacAlister OBE MP
Minister for Children and Families