

NO2NP: SHINING A LIGHT ON THE DARK RECESSES OF THE NAMED PERSON SCHEME

Opposition to the Scottish Government's dangerously intrusive Named Person scheme is growing by the day. The Government is under mounting pressure to drop the plans, as its own consultation reveals deep-rooted concerns from the very professionals tasked with implementing them.

The Police say the role 'lacks clarity'. Teachers and social



workers fear being overwhelmed by the extra workload. And almost every day the press are revealing

the worries of parents, academics and others that lay bare just why this is such a bad idea.

While all this has been going on we've launched a petition against the plans, which has quickly gathered over 11,000 signatures. We've been holding action days, with volunteers pounding the streets raising awareness of the campaign. And we've been urging people to contact their MSPs to point out the fatal flaws in the legislation. Join us. Say "No" to Named Persons.

NO2NP ON THE ROAD

Join us at a Roadshow!
Visit: no2np.org/roadshow

'WORSE THAN A NANNY STATE' – JUDICIAL REVIEW JUDGMENT DUE

Judges in Scotland's highest court are currently considering an appeal in the judicial review of the Named Person scheme.

During the appeal hearing, barrister Aidan O'Neill QC told the Inner House of the Court of Session that the controversial plans are "incompatible with the

fundamental rights of a democratic society".

O'Neill, a leading human rights expert, said the scheme created a situation "worse than a nanny state because the nanny is at least responsible to the family".

Legal action against the Named Person scheme was launched in July last year.

NO2NP is the campaign against state-appointed Named Persons for every child in Scotland aged under 18. It is backed by a broad range of people including politicians, journalists, academics, religious groups, educationalists and parents.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER FAILS TO ANSWER SIMPLE QUESTIONS ON HER OWN SCHEME

Everyone is struggling to defend the Named Person scheme – including Acting Children's Minister Fiona McLeod (pictured).

BBC Radio Scotland was inundated with callers opposing the scheme when McLeod appeared on Call Kaye in early July.

However, she failed to answer the simple

questions put to her by members of the public, including parents and former teachers.

She also implied that the scheme was just 'someone to turn to for help', suggesting that she doesn't actually understand what the legislation says.

After the radio interview a NO2NP spokesman said: "It was striking



that the scheme the Minister was defending is not the same as the scheme her Government has actually legislated for.

"She thinks the Named

Person is just someone parents and kids can ask for help.

"But the Named Person is legally empowered to monitor parents and children,

to share their confidential data, and to put services in place, all without parental consent and even in defiance of parental wishes."

IT'S TIME TO 'MOVE ON' FROM JUST PROTECTING AT-RISK CHILDREN SAYS GOVERNMENT LAWYER

During June's appeal hearing against the scheme, the Government's lawyer made some of the most deeply troubling remarks we have heard so far.

Alistair Clark QC's comments betrayed the truly intrusive role of the Named Person.

Addressing three judges at Scotland's highest court in Edinburgh, Clark claimed



that the presence of the Named Person law on the statute book "doesn't interfere with human rights at all".

Pressed by one judge as to why every child needed a Named Person, even those who are not at risk, he said that every child is deemed to be "potentially vulnerable".

Clark told the court that the Named Person legislation is not restricted to protecting

children at immediate risk of harm, saying we are "moving on" from that. He subsequently tried to say the level of interference in families' lives would be "at most minimal".

The barrister gave the game away again when asked what would happen if a young girl was in hospital and found to be pregnant.

He insisted that the Named Person would definitely be contacted but couldn't say whether or not the girl's parents would be informed.

THE STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF SCOTS GOV SPEAK

The dark art of management-speak is alive and well in the Scottish Government.

'Wellbeing Wheel', 'My World Triangle' and 'Resilience Matrix' sound like the worst kind of management-guru babble, but these mantras are being churned out by those responsible for foisting the Named Person scheme on unsuspecting families across Scotland.

The diagrams, part of 109 pages of official guidance, are supposed to help practitioners implement the scheme.

But the 'Wellbeing Wheel' is used to assess a mind-boggling 304 aspects of a child's life, categorised under eight 'SHANARRI' indicators – Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included.

The 'My World Triangle' depicts a series of clouds filled with phrases to gather further information about the needs of a child.

And if all this wasn't enough they have also concocted the 'Resilience Matrix' to help analyse all the other information. The Government now concedes that this has been "the most difficult to understand".

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION SHOWS STRONG OPPOSITION

The Scottish Government's own consultation on the Named Person guidance revealed widespread concern from charities, health boards, councils and especially individuals.

Lack of clarity was a constant theme, with an incredible 98% of individual respondents and nearly half (45%) of organisations saying that the draft guidance was not clear.

The responses highlighted that even those state professionals tasked with operating the scheme are unsure about what the role entails.

Polling data from regional events organised by the Government to support the

consultation told a similar story.

In Glasgow, Edinburgh and Perth attendees were asked to respond to the statement "The guidance provides sufficient insight into how to provide the Named Person

service to every child" – more than half disagreed.

Asked if "The guidance offers enough information to facilitate the establishment of systems and processes to effectively manage information sharing with and by the Named Person" over two-thirds disagreed. Opposition was particularly strong in Glasgow where 76% disagreed with the statement, including 28% who strongly disagreed.

98%
SAID GUIDANCE WAS NOT CLEAR

SCRAP 'SINISTER' PLANS, SAYS MSP

Sinister, intrusive and unnecessary. That's the view of Mid Scotland and Fife MSP Liz Smith.

She said that by "insisting every child has a Named Person, the Scottish Government will, by definition, dilute the resources which are available to help those children in genuine need".



"The best thing the Scottish Government can do now is scrap it altogether".

Her concerns were echoed by Ken Macintosh MSP (pictured) who said the scheme would put the most vulnerable children at greater risk.

Macintosh, a candidate for the Scottish Labour leadership, warned it would "take the focus of social workers and other practitioners away from at-risk children" making it harder to "support those who really do need this kind of involvement".

▼ **The Times** 2 July 2015

Parents oppose plan to give every child a guardian

Police fear 'lack of clarity' in state guardian scheme

▲ **The Herald**
2 July 2015

Minister falters over SNP 'state snoopers' plan

Radio phone-in listeners left baffled

Daily Mail ▶
3 July 2015

SNP's state guardian scheme could mask real abuse – police

◀ **The Scotsman**
2 July 2015

The Herald ▶
1 July 2015

Ministers under pressure to rethink state guardian plan

▼ **The Herald**
3 July 2015

Teachers worry about increased workload as named person for pupils

PARENTS' NEW GUIDE ON STATE-APPROVED "GOOD LIFE" FOR KIDS

Parents have been told that their children will be monitored by state officials who will "check every child has what they need to have a good life".

In 'An Easy Read Guide To...Getting It Right For Every Child' parents are instructed on what they should and should not do in order to meet Government parenting standards. The leaflet also makes clear that the job of the Named Person is to check parents are complying.

It states: "People who work with your child will check..."

- ▶ "Your child does activities they like to do"
- ▶ "Your child gets a say in things like how their room is decorated and what to watch on TV"
- ▶ "Your child can be part of a group like Scouts, Brownies or a football group if they want to".

The leaflet also says state officials will check which people are around your child, where your child lives and what is going on in your child's life.

VOUCHER 'BRIBE' FAILS TO WIN OVER PARENTS AT HAMPDEN PARK EVENT

Having lost the argument over their Big Brother plans in the court of public opinion, in June the Scottish Government set about trying to buy approval for its discredited state guardian scheme.

It held an event at Hampden Park to explain how the Named Person provisions, which are linked to the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) initiative, will work.

Parents who attended were given a £25 voucher, reimbursed their transport costs and even offered free childcare during the event.

If the Government officials thought this would win support they soon realised their mistake, as concerned



parents tore into both the Named Person scheme and GIRFEC.

But as they quizzed Child Protection chief Phil Raines (pictured) he left them unimpressed – failing to answer any of their questions on topics ranging from funding to the lack of consultation.

As with so much of this botched scheme, in the end parents were left with plenty of questions but very few answers.

SCOTS GOV TARGETS TEACHERS' HOLS FOR NAMED PERSON COVER

In July, Scotland's largest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), expressed "serious concerns" about the Named Person scheme interfering with teachers' holidays.

The union was responding to a letter sent to schools by the Scottish Government, which recognises that teachers could face

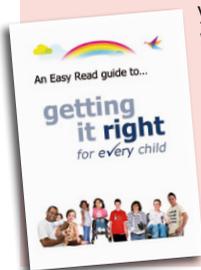


unmanageable workloads under the scheme.

The Herald revealed the letter asked schools if their "existing on-call arrangements outside term time for senior staff could ensure the 'continuity' of the named person

service".

A spokeswoman for the EIS told The Herald that the union would have "serious concerns about any workload demands being placed on teachers to fulfil the named person role during the holiday period".



'WELLBEING' CHECKS COULD LEAD TO MORE CHILD ABUSE WARN POLICE

Police Scotland has warned that the Named Person scheme could delay removing children from abusers because officials are spending time conducting 'wellbeing' assessments.

The warning is contained in Police Scotland's official response to the Scottish Government's guidance on how the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act



2014 will operate. The submission highlights the risk that 'wellbeing concern' assessments are "being carried out by a range of practitioners from organisations when there is actual information that a child has or is the victim of abuse and or neglect deemed as criminal acts".

"This has resulted in a time delay, at times significant, during which time the children (or other children) are exposed to the potential of

further criminal acts and the potential for evidential opportunities to be lost or compromised. Specific examples can be provided if required."

This extraordinary revelation makes it all too clear that, as NO2NP has been saying from the start, the Named Person policy will not protect abused and neglected children –

it will expose them to even more danger.

Police Scotland joins the Scottish Association of Social Work, The Law Society of Scotland, Faculty of Advocates, Royal College of Nursing Scotland and Clan Childlaw – a charity that provides legal help for children – in swelling the ranks of professional bodies speaking out against the scheme.



SHOULD PARENTS BE REFERRED TO A NAMED PERSON OVER SAFE DOSE OF COUGH SYRUP?

A mother from the Borders has been told that she could be investigated under the Named Person scheme for giving her sick child what was deemed a safe dose of cough medicine.

In a letter to The Scotsman, the woman said she had given her toddler a small amount of adult cough syrup because she had run out of baby medicine.

But after having second thoughts she rushed to Borders General Hospital only to be told that her son would be fine as the dose was "well within limit".

However, nurses told her never to do it again, adding: "We would have had to refer you for



investigation under the new Named Person laws".

"The idea I might now 'face investigation' or scrutiny over a safe dose of cough syrup? It horrifies me," she said. "Parents must be made aware of what the Named Person policy means. It means state surveillance of us as parents."