

## FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

With over 34,000 petition signatures and counting, packed venues for our Roadshows, and poll results showing two-thirds of Scots opposed to the Named Person scheme, the NO2NP campaign is gaining momentum with every passing day.

That's thanks to you, and the tens of thousands like you, who refuse to accept the Government's implication that you



can't look after your own children without its help.

The issue took centre stage during the election

campaign. Since then the outcry against Scotland's state guardian scheme has been fuelled by a constant string of

alarming revelations. Read on and you'll see why more and more people are saying "No" to Named Persons.

**NO2NP ON THE ROAD**

Join us at a Roadshow!  
Visit: [no2np.org/roadshow](http://no2np.org/roadshow)

**NO2NP ROADSHOW**

Roadshows since July 2015

## TEACHERS VOTE TO PROBE SCHEME

In June, the biggest teachers' union, Educational Institute of Scotland, voted to investigate and report on the "workload, contractual and legal implications arising from the role of the named person".

Council member John Swinburne gave both barrels to the scheme saying it would create a "vast, expensive bureaucracy to no effect". He continued: "It

will divert resources from vulnerable children who really need them".

He concluded by saying: "It is a misguided, stupid, nonsensical piece of legislation".



Fellow council member David Baxter also told union delegates: "Any local authority that claims this is merely a continuation of good practice is at risk of burying their head in the sand".

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.

# GOVT ON MUTE OVER EVIDENCE THAT STATE GUARDIAN CHECKS AID ABUSE

Last year, Police Scotland warned the Scottish Government that the Named Person scheme could be delaying the removal of children from abusers as officials spend their time conducting 'wellbeing' assessments.

The Police offered to provide details of actual cases where Named Person protocols exacerbated criminal child abuse and neglect.

N02NP demanded the Government take up the offer and asked for a statement. But it's now more than a year later and there



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

has been no public response from the Government on this issue.

This apparent failure to investigate these very serious allegations is typical of the Government's dismissive attitude towards any politically inconvenient truths

about the Named Person scheme. These are real children who have suffered horrifying experiences – yet the Government appears unconcerned about their plight.

The state guardian scheme is built on the concept of 'wellbeing' assessments, and is sold to the public

as a means of preventing abuse and neglect, not prolonging it.

Failing to respond to the allegations undermines public trust. It also begs the question of whether there are more cases where abuse and neglect have been exacerbated by Named Person protocols.



## NAMED PERSON SCHEME SLAMMED BY... NAMED PERSONS

Health visitors – who are required to be Named Persons for children under five – fear their relationship with parents could be damaged and that they could be made "scapegoats" if a child is harmed.

The revelations came in



January in a report by public sector union UNISON Scotland which showed that more than half of health visitors surveyed do not think the Named Person scheme "would be a good thing".

Questioned about the scheme, one health

visitor cautioned that the Named Person scheme would "clog an already stretched system", while another described it as a "huge concern".

Despite supporting the scheme in principle, UNISON Scotland responded saying it believed it was "not sensible at this time" to give health visitors Named Person responsibilities.

## **STRANGE BUT TRUE NAMED PERSON 'LIKE A HEAD GARDENER'**

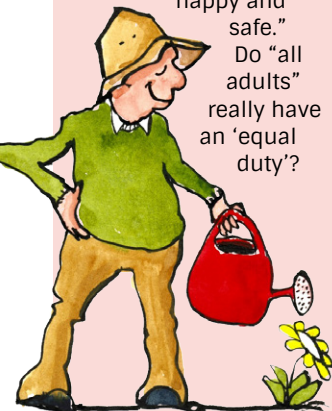
When the Named Person legislation was being considered back in 2012, the Children's Parliament spoke to over 100 children at schools across Scotland.

To help pupils understand the Bill, they encouraged them to imagine Scotland as a garden, with each child as a special plant growing within it. They were told that "all the adults in their lives" are "Gardeners", but the Named Person is "Head Gardener".

A bizarre analogy and yet one readily endorsed by the Government.

A Children's Parliament consultation document claimed "children identified that all adults – family members and professional people – have and share equally a duty to make sure all children are healthy, happy and safe."

Do "all adults" really have an 'equal duty'?



# **ANSWERS TO 4 COMMON ARGUMENTS**

## **1 "THE NAMED PERSON SCHEME HAS BEEN INTRODUCED TO MAKE SURE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN GET HELP IF AND WHEN THEY NEED IT."**

- ▶ The Named Person law orders health, education, police and other bodies to send private information about children's wellbeing to the Named Person without any reference to parental consent or knowledge.
- ▶ Named Persons will be collecting information, regardless of whether or not a family needs help.

## **2 "THERE'S NO REQUIREMENT FOR FAMILIES TO TAKE UP THE OFFER OF HELP – THEY DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO ADVICE GIVEN TO THEM BY A NAMED PERSON."**

- ▶ There is no opt-out in the law or reference to 'consent'.
- ▶ 'Not taking advice' is one of the 200 risk indicators that Named Persons will use to assess families.

## **3 "CHILDREN WHO ARE AT RISK WILL BE PROTECTED AND EXISTING CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES WILL NOT CHANGE."**

- ▶ The huge amount of new data gathered under the scheme will inevitably result in over-referrals, burying the files of genuinely at-risk children under a mass of trivia on ordinary families.

## **4 "INFORMATION SHARING WILL ONLY HAPPEN TO PROTECT WELLBEING AND SUPPORT FAMILIES WHO WILL KNOW WHAT INFORMATION IS BEING SHARED AND WHY."**

- ▶ The information sharing provisions in the Act say nothing about telling parents what is being shared and why. If it is "likely to be relevant" to the Named Person and "ought to be provided" then it "must" be shared.
- ▶ The current threshold for information sharing is "risk of significant harm" but the new law lowers the trigger to 'wellbeing' concerns making it easier to share confidential information.

See more Answers to Common Arguments on our website:  
[no2np.org/resources/answers-common-arguments](http://no2np.org/resources/answers-common-arguments)

# NO PARENTAL OPT-OUT DESPITE FIRST MINISTER'S CLAIMS

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been accused of sending mixed messages over her claims that the Named Person scheme is an “entitlement” for parents and “not mandatory”.

Sturgeon’s comments contradict the Government’s own QC, who told the Court of Session last year that to allow parents to opt out would “defeat the purpose of the scheme”.

The legislation makes no mention of ‘parental consent’ or ‘opt-out’. In fact, “parental resistance” is one of 200 risk indicators included on a Government checklist used by Named Persons to assess families.

If parents decline advice

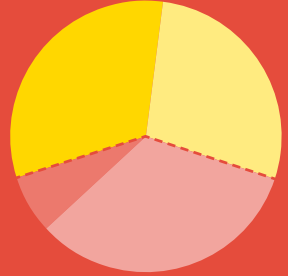


from a Named Person it could earn them a black mark. Under Government draft guidance a series of such black marks, whether linked or not, “can amount to a child protection issue”.

NO2NP wrote to the First Minister requesting a meeting to clarify the ‘opt-out’ confusion. A response was received 28 days later but with no offer of a meeting.

## POLL

**60% OPPOSE**  
**NAMED PERSON SCHEME**  
(32% strongly oppose)



**40% SUPPORT**  
**NAMED PERSON SCHEME**  
(7% strongly support)

Source: YouGov poll for The Times of 1070 Scottish adults, 7-9 March 2016. Figures for those who expressed a view.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE CABBIES TOLD TO SPY ON KIDS

In December 2015, a child protection training officer let slip that taxi drivers have a legal duty to spy on child passengers and report to Named Persons.

Jim Terras was recorded saying, “if you’re contracted out for services to the local authority, you will have a duty, a legal duty, to assist the Named Person”.



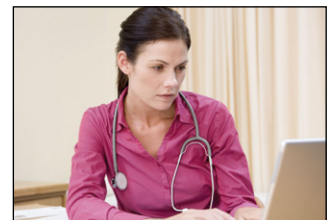
## GPs AND DENTISTS MUST TALK TO NAMED PERSONS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY PARENTS

GPs would need to tell the Named Person if a teenager was prescribed contraception, but parents would not have to be informed, Supreme Court judges have been told.

Asked about such a situation, Aidan O’Neill QC confirmed that a GP would “not be constrained by the duty of confidentiality”. The GP would have to tell the Named Person, he said, but there is “no requirement to involve parents in these matters”.

It’s not just GPs that are affected. A dental practice in

Aberdeenshire reported getting an “aggressive” reaction when they refused to pass on confidential information to Named Persons. They were reportedly told: “You don’t need the parents’ permission any more because we are acting as Named Persons”.



# DISASTROUS ISLE OF MAN SCHEME OFFERS GLIMPSE INTO SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

A scheme eerily similar to Named Persons has proven disastrous on the Isle of Man.

The policy, which saw more than 2,000 professionals trained to monitor the happiness of children, was abandoned several years ago.

The Isle of Man's 'Every Child Matters' policy (ECM), trained head teachers and police to inform social services about children for a host of

trivial reasons.

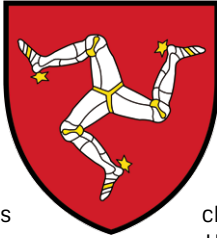
Prior to its introduction, social workers could only intervene if there was a risk of "significant harm" to a child.

However, the threshold for intervention was lowered to a much wider definition based on whether a child was "healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving" and "making a positive contribution". These definitions

are remarkably similar to those employed under the infamous SHANARRI measures of the Named Person scheme.

This resulted in a 1,560 per cent rise in referrals "warranting a more detailed

investigation" – from 30 to 498 in the year following ECM's implementation.



## STRANGE BUT TRUE 'CLUELESS' SCHEME WANTS YOU TO SPY ON YOUR FRIENDS

Friends, family and work colleagues should all be involved in spying on one another, according to one of the most bizarre training exercises for Named Persons so far uncovered.

In the training exercise, based around the board game Cluedo, participants are invited to play the role of characters in the life of single

mother 'Jayne' and her child 'Melody'.

As they play they are asked to identify the 'seemingly innocuous' information that should be passed on to Named Persons.

These 'indicators' include the mother's stress at work and if she enjoys a glass of wine.



## CHILDREN'S LAW CHARITY WARNS ON KIDS' RIGHTS

A charity that gives legal help to children and young people in Scotland has warned that the Named Person legislation violates the rights of children.

Clan Childlaw said the law breaches Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and risks discouraging children from accessing help.



# NAMED PERSONS: HERE FOR YOU – EXCEPT WHEN THEY’RE NOT

Teachers will not carry out their Named Person role outside school hours, Scotland’s largest teaching union has confirmed.

Under the scheme, once a child starts school, it is intended that their head teacher or guidance teacher will become the Named Person.

However, Moray Council has said that during the holidays and at weekends, council staff rather than teachers will perform the role.

The Government peddles the notion that a Named Person will be “There for you”. Now it seems this will not be the case if the Named



Person has finished for the day – or it happens to be a weekend.

The ‘right’ time to access the ‘right’ help is apparently not determined by the needs of the child but

rather the contractual working hours of the Named Person.

Lesley Scott, of the NO2NP campaign, said the revelation “makes a mockery of the idea of a single point of contact”.

Named Persons – there ‘if you need them’ – except of course if it’s before 9am, or after 4pm, or on weekends or half term, at Easter or Christmas or...

## 34,532

people have signed the petition so far

**SIGN THE PETITION**  
[NO2NP.ORG](http://NO2NP.ORG)

## REAL LIFE ‘SECRET 60-PAGE FILE ON MY 2-YR-OLD’

A father, protected by anonymity, has spoken of his distressing experience with the Named Person scheme.

After increasing levels of intrusion, ‘Mr Smith’ put in a subject access request and uncovered a 60-page record kept by his two-year-old son’s Named Person.

It showed notes were made on observations that his son

sucked his thumb and had, at one time, a runny nose.

Smith told Scotland on Sunday: “I felt angry and powerless”, saying it showed “a total lack of respect and confidence” in him as a parent.

He summed up the scheme saying: “I find it sinister. I find it very creepy. I find it chilling”.

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE? SHARE IT WITH US AT: [STORIES@NO2NP.ORG](mailto:STORIES@NO2NP.ORG)**