

Poll shows only 20pc back child guardians

By **Alan Roden**
Scottish Political Editor

A NEW law that allows the state to appoint a 'guardian' for every child in Scotland is facing a public backlash.

An exclusive opinion poll for the Scottish Daily Mail has found that only one-fifth of Scots back the 'named person' legislation, passed by Holyrood last week.

It is the first test of public opinion following a wave of criticism from the Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church and other Christian bodies.

The findings are a significant boost for campaigners who are planning legal action against the

I STRONGLY support the 'named person' provision. A named person is for all children and parents to access whenever they might need additional support and advice.

We know from our long experience of working with, and for, families that making sure they get the right support at the right time is key to enabling more children to thrive safely within their families.

For 130 years, as the Royal Society for the Protection of Children, and now as CHILDREN 1st, we have campaigned for every child in Scotland to enjoy a better start and for no child to grow up in fear of abuse and violence.

We are pleased to have worked with partners to add the views and experiences of

FOR

ANNE HOUSTON
Chief Executive of CHILDREN 1st

children, young people and families to influence the Children and Young People Bill.

The legislation does much to update and extend provision, not just for some children - arguably, those who need our support most - but for all young people in Scotland.

It has been suggested that the named person might take rights away from parents. Actually, it does the opposite. This legal provision gives parents and children the right to call on

professionals when they need advice, information and support to help them.

It is important that this is for all children, but we should not lose sight of the needs and interests of the most vulnerable.

In every serious case review into a child's death in recent years, common issues have been the failure of professionals to act on information early enough and of agencies to share appropriate information about risks to a child. The named person provisions are designed to address these weaknesses and will hopefully prevent and minimise the risk of harm to children in the future.

● For more information on CHILDREN 1st visit www.children1st.org.uk

LAW WILL ACTUALLY GIVE MORE RIGHTS TO PARENTS