

NNCEE Chair – NEWS
Govn. Agree New Research into Child Employment

I am writing to alert you to an important piece of research on Child Employment which local authorities may be asked to become involved.

The Department for Education has commissioned the University of West Scotland to carry out research to evaluate the current arrangements for the Regulation of Child Employment and identify potential areas for improvement or reform.

An important element of this research will be a survey of around 50 Local Authorities, which will ask questions about how the current system is operating and also seek the views of LA officers on possible alternative approaches to the existing system. The research programme will also include in-depth studies of practice in six LAs, interviews with employers and a student forum. The final report is due next spring, 2011.

The Local Authority survey is a key part of the research project. It will provide useful information on how well the existing arrangements are working and, from a LA perspective, the practical implications of retaining the current system with some improvements or reforming it.

Professor Jim McKechnie of the Child Employment Research Group at the University of West Scotland, who is leading the project, will shortly be writing to Directors of Children's Services asking them to identify officers within their Authorities who are in a position to respond to the survey questions.

Terry Drury, NNCEE Chairperson