NCMA Cymru wishes to make a general comment about the bill in line with the response from Children are Unbeatable against question 8. Other comments

Are there any other comments you wish to make about specific sections of the Bill? NCMA Cymru argues, in line with the Children are Unbeatable Campaign, given the overall context and the overall aims of the Bill, the Stage 1 Report should recommend that a clause should be added to remove the “reasonable punishment” justification for common assault on children in Wales. The First Minister confirmed in October 2011, having taken legal advice, that the National Assembly now has the power to legislate to remove the defence and NCMA Cymru believes that this power to legislate needs to be utilised. In addition, the October 2011 debate and vote in the Assembly showed a strong cross-party majority of AMs encouraging the Government to introduce the necessary legislation.

NCMA Cymru, in line with the Children are Unbeatable Campaign, urges the Health and Social Care Committee and the Children and Young People Committee to recommend in the Stage 1 Report inclusion in the Bill of the necessary provision to remove the “reasonable punishment” defence. NCMA Cymru agrees with all points raised in the Children are Unbeatable response to the bill and cites these as evidence on NCMA Cymru’s view.