

Children and Young People with Learning Disabilities

Restrictive Practices

Following their documentary on the use of seclusion rooms in Whitefield School in London ([The School Prison Cells](#)), which was broadcast in November last year, the BBC have uncovered multiple cases of seclusion and restraint in schools across England. A follow-up report was broadcast as part of BBC News at Ten on Wednesday 9th April 2025. An article which accompanied the broadcast can be found [here](#). At the CBF we have written to the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, to raise our concerns about the contents of these reports, and to call for seclusion in schools to be banned.

The Government have committed to enacting section 93a of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This will introduce a legal requirement for schools to record all significant incidents in which force is used on a pupil by a member of staff, and to inform parents. This legal duty is expected to come into force from September 2025.

The Department for Education are currently consulting on an update to the 'Use of reasonable force' guidance (2013). The proposed new 'Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions in schools' guidance will apply to schools in England. The CBF have produced a briefing on this consultation following our work with the Protecting Rights; Eliminating Restraint Group and the National Working Group for Safeguarding Disabled Children, which you can read [here](#). This [consultation](#) closes on 29th April.

When will these reforms be enacted?

The Law Commission are in the process of reviewing the legal framework governing disabled children's social care. This is because currently the law around disabled children's social care (specifically, around family-based care, rather than deprivations of liberty or secure accommodation) is complicated, with rights and responsibilities split across different pieces of legislation. The aim of this work is to make the laws around providing social care support to disabled children simpler and more modern.

The consultation period of this work closed in January 2025. The Law Commission have not stated when they will be making their final recommendations to the Government.

Upcoming Reports and Resources

The Education Committee has been conducting an inquiry into children's social care. The final evidence session of this inquiry was held in March, and we are awaiting publication of the inquiry's report.