

26 October 2015

## **Health and Care Professions Council response to The Scottish Government's consultation on Proposals for an Offence of Wilful Neglect or Ill-treatment with regards to services for Children under the age of 18**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Health and Care Professions Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.
- 1.2 The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) is a statutory regulator of health, social work and psychological professions governed by the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001. We regulate the members of 16 professions. We maintain a register of professionals, set standards for entry to our register, approve education and training programmes for registration and deal with concerns where a professional may not be fit to practise. Our main role is to protect the health and wellbeing of those who use or need to use our registrants' services.

### **2. Our comments**

- 2.1 Our response to the Scottish Government's previous consultation on Proposals for an offence of Wilful Neglect or Ill-treatment in Health and Social Care Settings is available on our website here <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations/external/index.asp?id=180>
- 2.2 Overall, we supported the proposals to protect those receiving health and care services by way of a new offence of wilful neglect or ill-treatment in these settings.
- 2.3 We supported applying the offence across all settings where individuals deliver health and social care, including private and public sectors, as well as in paid and unpaid roles. The public should have the same level of protection at all times.
- 2.4 Therefore we also support the proposal for a similar offence to apply across children's health and social care services to ensure consistency in protection given to service users of all ages.
- 2.5 We also support the proposal that the new offence should concentrate on the act of wilfully neglecting, or ill-treating a child rather than any harm suffered as a result of that behaviour. This reflects our approach to regulation and public protection which focuses on the conduct and performance expected of registrants.