



Child Care Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 5

PART III

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN IN CARE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

18 General duty of local authority in relation to children in their care

- (1) In reaching any decision relating to a child in their care, a local authority shall give first consideration to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood; and shall so far as practicable ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child regarding the decision and give due consideration to them, having regard to his age and understanding.
- (2) In providing for a child in their care a local authority shall make such use of facilities and services available for children in the care of their own parents as appears to the local authority reasonable in his case.
- (3) If it appears to the local authority that it is necessary, for the purpose of protecting members of the public, to exercise their powers in relation to a particular child in their care in a manner which may not be consistent with their duty under subsection (1) above, the authority may, notwithstanding that duty, act in that manner.