

26th November 2003

Children's Bill will deliver improved services to safeguard children

We welcome the announcement of a children's bill within the Queen's Speech as an important step forward in protecting child welfare. Poor co-ordination between agencies and a failure to share information are critical areas that clearly need to be resolved, and a partnership approach is vital. Some councils are already well on the way, others are lagging behind. We have worked successfully with Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Direct to pioneer the integration of information systems and to identify vulnerable children through establishing a children's community index.

Speaking today, Dave Meaden, managing director of Northgate public sector said:

"Today's announcement is an endorsement of our work at a local level. The challenge now is to ensure that we get rid of the postcode lottery and provide adequate protection for all of our children."

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

1. Northgate is a technology company with a difference. It is committed to high quality public services and understands the public sector. That knowledge is core to its business. Its task is to enhance public sector value through intelligent use of people and information technology systems and to share in the economic and social benefits that this brings.
2. Northgate assists local authorities and the police to promote community well-being by helping them provide citizens with accessible and responsive one-stop services. It provides enforcement systems for London's congestion charging scheme and is the country's leading provider of penalty notice systems for the police.
3. Northgate works with councils to deliver integrated services for children by developing unified systems for identifying vulnerable children and referring them to the relevant professional help that they need.