

however strongly deprecate their setting out in life under less thorough care and supervision than they would have at home, and we recommend that it should be a condition of consenting to the emigration of deprived children that the arrangements made by the Government of the receiving country for their welfare and after care should be comparable to those proposed in this report for deprived children remaining in this country.'

5.3.5 Given this recommendation, it is worth noting that the Curtis Committee identified a number of features of what they would regard as good standards of practice for residential child-care in Britain (see paras 476-96). Whilst indicating its preference for adoption or foster-care, the Committee recognised that the scale of need was likely to mean that children would still need to be placed in residential care for at least the next ten to fifteen years (para 476). With this in mind, the Committee recommended that residential institutions should operate on the model of 'grouped' or 'scattered' homes, ideally with no more than eight children (and certainly no more than ten to twelve) being placed in the care of a 'house mother' (paras 478-9, 485,487). A fundamental principle underpinning this was that residential homes should be of a scale where staff would have the capacity and aptitude to allow for 'individual care and attention to the children' (para 493.ii) and 'take an interest in all their doings' (para 488). A central aim of these homes should be to ensure that children living in them with properly integrated into their local community. Children living in these homes should, wherever possible, attend the primary and secondary schools in their local neighbourhood, with particular attention paid to ensuring that 'the children reach their maximum capacity at each educational stage' (para 489). These children should also be able to 'form the usual contacts with other children, visit their houses, be allowed to ask them back, join their Scout and Guide troops, and go with them to the swimming baths' (para 488). Whilst children in such 'cottage' homes should reasonably be expected to contribute to chores that would support the running of the household, 'any exploitation of child labour in Homes is to be severely discouraged' (para 485). Children should have access to an up-to-date library, suitable toys and games, the wireless and other opportunities to pursue hobbies (para 493.xi). Every effort should be made to enable the child to remain in contact with any relatives that they had, 'provided of course the contact is not likely to do him harm' (para 493.xiv). Corporal punishment should be entirely prohibited in these homes for children of all ages and both genders:

'It is to be remembered that the children with whom we are concerned are already at a disadvantage in society. One of the first essentials is to nourish their self-respect: another is to make them feel that they are regarded with affection by those in charge of them. Whatever there is to be said for this form of punishment in the case of boys with a happy home and full confidence in life, it may, in our opinion be disastrous for the child with an unhappy background. It is, moreover, liable to grave abuse. In condemning corporal punishment we do not overlook the fact that there are other means of enforcing control which may have even more harmful effects. We especially deprecate nagging, sneering, taunting, indeed all methods which secure the ascendancy of the person in charge by destroying or lowering the self-esteem of the child. There are certain behaviour difficulties, in particular bedwetting (enuresis), for which the punitive approach is in general inappropriate and should be strongly discouraged... Our evidence is that a combination of encouragement, small rewards for