

improvement, and physical treatment as medically advised... will usually effect a cure time, but that punishment generally makes matters worse.' (para 493.xviii)

5.3.6 The consequences of this report and of that paragraph upon child welfare in the UK and for the future of child migration were profound. As noted earlier in our report, the recommendations were accepted by the Labour government, and the Children Act followed in 1948.⁷⁴ Changes were made in the delivery of childcare services by local authorities. Financial support to keep needy families together plus an increase in fostering and adoption were attempts to preserve or emulate a 'normal home life'. Another accelerated shift was in the training and thinking of social workers and childcare specialists. Just as importantly was the effect on officials in the Home Office, which had now been given the task of monitoring childcare provision by local authorities and voluntary societies, assisted by an Advisory Council on Child Care made up of childcare specialists.

5.3.7 With respect to child migration programmes, officials in the Home Office set about trying to get their counterparts in the Commonwealth Relations Office to accept and act upon the new thinking when child migration agencies applied for a resumption of their subsidies and for approval of receiving homes overseas. The influence of the new thinking is also evident in the report reviewed next, and it can be detected to a lesser and then to a greater extent in the Moss and Ross reports which thereafter follow.

⁷⁴ Children Act, 1948, Ch 43, 11 & 12 Geo.6: <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/acts/1948-children-act.pdf>