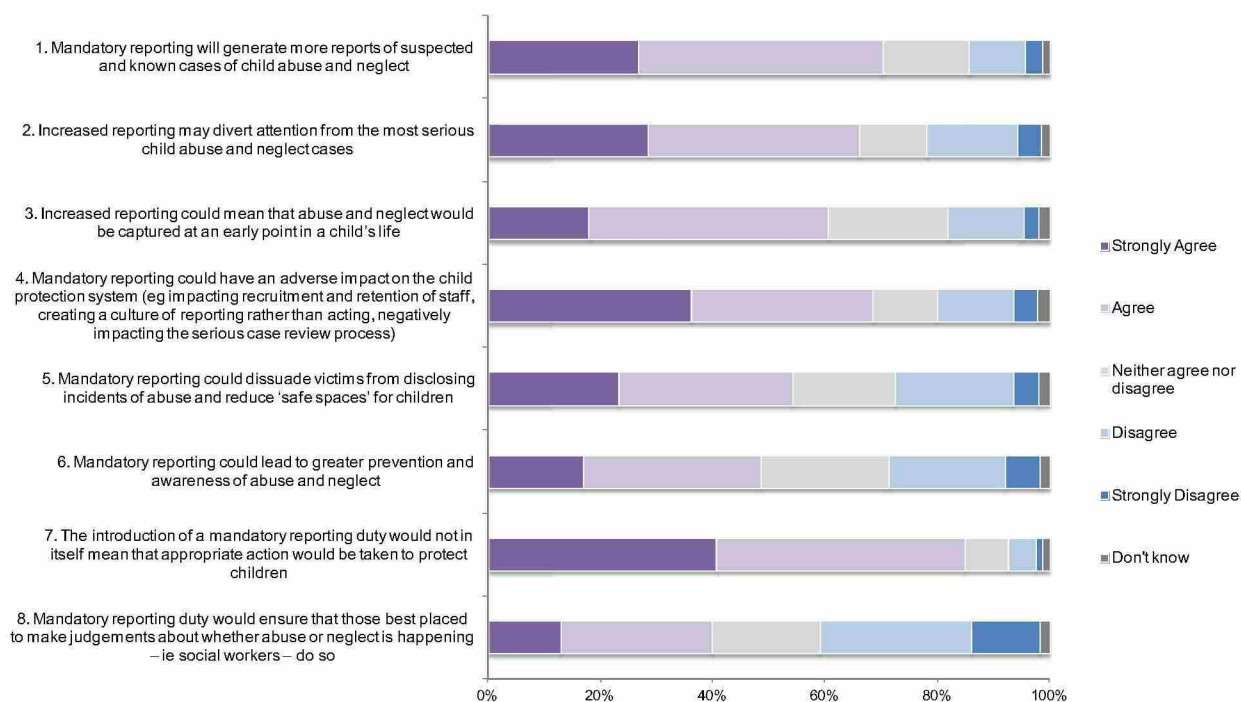


Other measures that could be introduced

Mandatory Reporting

72. The consultation paper sought views on the possible introduction of a statutory mandatory reporting duty, which would require specified practitioners or organisations to report child abuse or neglect if they knew or had reasonable cause to suspect it was taking place, with sanctions for failure to report. The consultation paper provided information on how mandatory reporting operates in other countries and how a system might be implemented in England. Respondents were asked for their views on a series of statements about the benefits and risks of mandatory reporting.

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Response	Q 5.1		Q 5.2		Q 5.3		Q 5.4		Q 5.5		Q 5.6		Q 5.7		Q 5.8	
Strongly Agree	183	27%	195	28%	122	18%	247	36%	158	23%	114	17%	278	41%	87	13%
Agree	296	43%	259	38%	290	43%	222	32%	211	31%	213	32%	301	44%	182	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	105	15%	82	12%	145	21%	78	11%	124	18%	154	23%	53	8%	130	19%
Disagree	68	10%	110	16%	92	14%	93	14%	142	21%	140	21%	33	5%	182	27%
Strongly Disagree	21	3%	29	4%	18	3%	29	4%	31	5%	42	6%	9	1%	82	12%
Don't know	9	1%	11	2%	14	2%	16	2%	14	2%	12	2%	9	1%	12	2%
Total responses:	682	100%	686	100%	681	100%	685	100%	680	100%	675	100%	683	100%	675	100%

73. A majority of respondents who answered this question agreed with the statement that mandatory reporting would generate more reports of suspected and known cases of child abuse and neglect (70%), and 61% agreed with the statement that increased reporting could mean that abuse and neglect would be captured at an early point in a child's life. 40% agreed with the statement that mandatory reporting would ensure that those best placed to make judgements about whether abuse or neglect is happening do so, and 39% disagreed.
74. Significant concerns were identified about a mandatory reporting duty. 66% agreed with the statement that increased reporting might divert attention from the most serious child abuse and neglect cases and 54% agreed with the statement that mandatory reporting could dissuade victims from disclosing incidents of abuse and reduce 'safe spaces' for children. 49% agreed with the statement that mandatory reporting could lead to greater prevention and awareness of abuse and neglect, and 27% disagreed.
75. 68% agreed with the statement that mandatory reporting could have an adverse impact on the child protection system. 85% agreed with the statement that mandatory reporting would not in itself mean that appropriate action would be taken to protect children.
76. These concerns were reflected in answers to the next question, which asked respondents the extent to which they thought mandatory reporting would improve outcomes for children.

Question 6: To what extent do you agree that the introduction of a mandatory reporting duty would directly improve outcomes for children?

Response	Number of respondents	Percentage
Strongly Agree	84	13%
Agree	146	22%
Neither agree nor disagree	131	20%
Disagree	183	28%
Strongly Disagree	109	17%
Total responses:	653	100%

77. While 35% of respondents agreed that mandatory reporting would directly improve outcomes for children, there was a larger proportion (45%) who disagreed. Respondents were then invited to outline any other benefits, risks or issues in relation to mandatory reporting which had not been identified in the consultation paper.