

## 3 Summary of recommendations

Recommendation	Page
<i>Overall change:</i> Create a system that allows parents to make their own arrangements for child support, with quick and effective involvement from the state where such arrangements are not possible.	13
<i>Changes for benefit clients:</i> Remove the compulsion for parents with care on benefits to apply for child support.	18
<i>Disregarding maintenance in benefit calculations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Disregard child support up to a high threshold in calculating Income Support.</li><li>b) Disregard child support entirely in calculating Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.</li></ul>	22
<i>Information and advice services:</i> Reconfigure advice services to ensure that child support information is properly integrated. The details of this should be developed by a cross-government group.	26
<i>Legal system:</i> Remove the current 12-month break-point, preventing consent orders from being overturned by the administrative organisation, in line with the pre-2003 position.	28
<i>Enforcement:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Manage enforcement as a distinct business function.</li><li>b) Introduce new sanctions, including the power to withdraw passports, and make more use of existing powers such as imposing financial penalties.</li></ul>	32
<i>Delivering a new service:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Create a new organisation to administer child support.</li><li>b) Create a time-limited residuary body to manage down and enforce old debt.</li></ul>	35

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<p><i>Transition:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) There should be no conversion of cases from the existing to the redesigned system.</li> <li>b) Parents wishing to use the new administrative system will be supported to re-apply.</li> </ul>	36
<p><i>A new operating model:</i> Child support should be delivered through a commissioning body drawing on expertise from the private, not for profit and wider public sectors.</p>	41
<p><i>Governance:</i> Further work is needed to assess the relative pros and cons of establishing the new organisation as a non-departmental public body or of retaining it as an executive agency.</p>	43
<p><i>Managing debt:</i> Take legislative powers to manage down existing debts and conduct further work on the nature of historic debts.</p>	45
<p><i>Further policy work:</i> The Department for Work and Pensions should undertake further work to identify and develop opportunities to refine policies around trace, assessment and collection.</p>	52
<p><i>Charging:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The new administrative body should be given the power to charge clients.</li> <li>b) Further work should be done to develop detailed policy in this area.</li> </ul>	53