

23rd January 2020

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you about my concerns regarding the proposal of screening 0-3 year olds.

My personal reasons as to why I would object to such a practice are:

1. I have brought up my own children and of course have seen many other young children of parents I have known, or been friends with. It is without a doubt, that the majority of young children are inquisitive, out-going, and adventurous.

These characteristics are natural urges of the majority of young children and I do not look upon any problematic situations as something that "someone else" needs to handle.

Parental love, understanding and guidance is far superior than putting some drug into a young person's body.

2. There are other humanely alternatives to helping children who may be having a difficult time.

For example:

Standard check-up with a GP in regard to the young child's vitamin and mineral levels to see if there could be any deficiency/ies.

Tests from a dietician to determine what biological problems there may be, with correct diet recommendations.

Further education of parents to seek out and/or make foods without sugar for 0-3 year olds – which can be a major stimulator for hyperactivity in children of all ages.

Classes for parents that will offer them workable solutions for nurturing and bringing up their kids, so they feel more confident in being able to help their kids grow up into productive and intelligent members of society.

3. From my own experience, upbringing a very disturbed and high-energy boy who is now happy, responsible and creating his future. My methods were just on instinct and observation, i.e., has he a

wet nappy, is his bedding uncomfortable; taking him for walks to help relax him, moving him out of an environment that he found hard to handle – etc.

4. Drugs – being drugs – all have side effects. If some screening deemed a child in an undesirable category, the solution I would presume, would be some type of drug.

Thank you very much for your time in reading my submission.

The children of today will be running the world tomorrow, so it is of my utmost concern that we do not depend on something artificial (as in some form of early screening and eventual recommendation of drugs for 0-3 year olds).

Bringing children into the world is definitely an art and a responsibility.

Yours sincerely,

Katrina Grant.