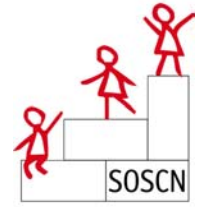


Scottish Out of School Care Network

Policy Newsletter, March 2008



"Supporting play, care and learning"

Policy News

Scottish Budget

The Scottish parliament passed the new Scottish government's First budget on 2nd February 2008.

John Swinney, Finance Secretary said, "I am delighted that the budget passed today will ensure we can deliver policies that will freeze the Council Tax, increase funding for local government, secure jobs and boost investment in the voluntary sector, as well as delivering vital infrastructure projects and support for Scottish business."

While it would be good to share Mr Swinney's optimism, SOSCN has concerns about the level of funding and support that will be available for out of school care due to the lack of ring-fenced funding or accountability according to the Concordat between Scottish and local governments. At our Childcare Strategy seminar in October 2007 it was agreed that long-term ring-fenced funding would be the only way of supporting our sector.

Furthermore it has been announced that an Early Years strategy will focus on 0 – 8 age group. Our concern is that any childcare funding will be sunk into 0 – 8 or 0-5 services leaving little for childcare services providing for children and young people older than 8. The Concordat states: "each local authority would aim to reach a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) with the Scottish Government at the earliest opportunity, based on the national outcomes and, under a common framework, local outcomes to take account of local priorities."

However, nowhere is childcare, other than pre-school, mentioned in the national outcomes, and our concern is that anything not included within the national outcomes will only be considered for funding once everything else has been covered.

Although previously only Workforce Development funding had been ring-fenced, the potential loss of this to the sector could be great, in light of SSSC qualification requirements.

It is important to know that the same amount of funding is still allocated to local authorities for childcare strategy and childcare workforce development. (Last year 44 million and 6 million pounds respectively.) What you may have to do on a local level is to see how your local authority translates their own SOA in terms of where childcare fits into this.

Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/923/0054147.pdf>

Consultation Response

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007: Secondary Legislation, Consultation

(Closed: 12/02/2008)

Summary

This consultation is about the vetting and barring scheme introduced through the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. Currently, the vetting process operates via a disclosure certificate being obtained by individuals applying to Disclosure Scotland. There are three types of disclosure - basic, standard and enhanced.

The new system will provide:

- The new scheme will remove the need for continued and repeat full disclosure checks. After initial full registration with the scheme, other and subsequent employers, including individuals as personal employers, can just check for any new information on the registration.
- Information will be gathered continuously from a number of sources with an obligation for vetting information to be provided to the Central Barring Unit from a number of agencies, including employers such as out of school care services, who would have to provide information on unsuitable individuals should an incident or information received give them grounds for referral.
- There will be lists of barred individuals, so that people cannot enter the workforce, a new list will also be compiled of those not suitable to work with vulnerable adults.
- Various timelines are offered in the consultation for retrospective checking and the scheme going "live".
- SOSCN recommends a gradual transition over a total of six years
- Various fee collection / setting methods are discussed, SOSCN recommends a two tier approach and free checks for volunteers
- Information gathered from a number of sources will be assessed, so that individuals will not be able to enter the workforce based not just on criminal conviction checks but other information deemed relevant to their suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults.

The lists will be managed by a Central Barring Unit (CBU) which together with the existing Disclosure Scotland service will form a single organisation. The CBU will manage the lists and take decisions about the unsuitability of individuals to work in either or both workforces. Disclosure Scotland will undertake the vetting function and will continue to issue basic, standard and enhanced certificates.

SOSCN's response can be found at www.soscn.org

Current Consultations

OSCR- "Meeting the Charity Test Guidance Consultation" (www.oscr.org.uk)

Opened: 11/01/2008

Closes: 7/04/2008

Purpose: "There has, been considerable development and evolution in the application of the charity test, so it is appropriate to revisit the Meeting the Charity Test Guidance, and update it to reflect practice and developments since the initial guidance was published. We are therefore seeking views on the attached draft guidance revised in this light." (OSCR, January 2008)

Scottish Government- "Consultation on the proposed change to the fitness requirements for Providers, Managers and Employees in Care services regulated by the Care Commission"

(www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/02/19150117/0)

Opened: 25/02/2008

Closes: 16/05/2008

Consultation on changes to the fitness provisions for providers, managers and employees of care services regulated by the Care Commission.

Scottish Labour Party – “Getting It Right for Every Child” (Consultation document attached with this newsletter)

Opened: 03/03/2008

Closes: summer 2008

With their consultation, the Scottish Labour Party want to know what the key challenges for Scotland's children today are and to hear views on some positive ideas the Party is thinking about taking forward.

Scottish Government- “Taking Forward The Government Economic Strategy: A Discussion Paper on Tackling Poverty, Inequality and Deprivation in Scotland”

(www.scotshexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2008/01/30131443/0)

Within this discussion there is the need to emphasise the vital role out of school care plays in allowing parents of school-aged children access employment, training or education opportunities.

Scottish Government- “Choosing the Right Ingredients. The Future for Food in Scotland. Discussion Paper.” (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Food-Industry/Discussion)

Opened: 15/01/2008

Closes: 25/04/2008

Book a place on SOSCN's FREE consultation seminars in Glasgow & Stirling – see information below.

SOSCN Events

****FREE SOSCN Seminar****

The Future of Food in Scotland- Consultation Events

Tuesday 1st April, 10.00 – 12.30

Teacher's Building, St Enoch's Square, Glasgow

Thursday 3rd April, 10.00 – 12.30

Tolbooth, Stirling

SOSCN is holding two free events financially supported by Community Food & Health (Scotland). These will be consultation events looking at the Scottish Government's "The Future for Food in Scotland" Discussion Paper (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/01/23111646/0>). Discussions from these days will form the basis for SOSCN's response to this consultation.

It is essential that we respond to this consultation in order to ensure that the sector's views on healthy eating within OSC are taken into account by government when developing policy. **As well as concerns or issues regarding provision of healthy food and education about healthy eating within OSC services, we shall be seeking examples of good practice.**

Who should attend? Out of school care managers, staff, committee members, local out of school care network members and staff, development and support staff, and policy makers.

All delegates attending will be entered into a free prize draw, refreshments will be provided. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first served basis – 30 delegates at each event. To attend please complete the booking form and email to info@soscn.org or fax: 0141 564 1286 or send to: SOSCN, Level 2, 100 Wellington Street, Glasgow G2 6DH and return by 26th March.

Scottish Out of School Care Network – April 2008

The Future of Food in Scotland- Consultation Events Booking Form

Delegate Name	
Job Title	
Organisation	

Contact Address	
Postcode	
Telephone number	
Email address	

Attendance at event (please only select one event)

I wish to attend the event in Glasgow on Tuesday 1st April

I wish to attend the event in Stirling on Thursday 3rd April

Please note:

Written confirmation will be sent to all booked delegates.

Please send completed booking forms to SOSCN by any of the following methods by 26th March 2008:

Email: info@soscn.org

Fax: 0141 564 1286

Post: SOSCN, Level 2, 100 Wellington St, Glasgow G2 6DH