

Scottish Out of School Care Network

Policy Newsletter, May 2008



"Supporting play, care and learning"

Policy News

Scottish Government & COSLA - Early Years & Early Intervention

As mentioned in the April newsletter, task groups were being set up to further look at the policy; these groups have now all met and are required to consult with the sector. Irene Audain CEO of SOSCN is a member of the task group looking at:

"Delivering integrated services that meet the holistic needs of children and families"

Within this task group a sub group has been formed to concentrate on Childcare, specifically:

- *Refreshing the direction in childcare including consideration of its role, purpose and value.*
- *Reducing fragmentation; addressing cost/funding issues and the roles of formal and informal carers.*
- *Considering the future role of childcare partnerships in the new strategic context.*

This group has been asked to report back on the childcare issues, and to consult widely with our respective sectors/ contacts on these issues. The sub group is required to produce a short report on our main findings and we would therefore like your feedback on the 3 main points above. To help with this, a set of questions has been devised, these are available from www.soscn.org

The task group is working to very short and tight deadlines- these have been set by the Scottish Government and COSLA- and all responses to the aforementioned questions must be sent to Irene: irene@soscn.org by the 1st of June. **Despite the short timescales we would encourage you to participate in this consultation.**

SOSCN writes to all 32 local authorities regarding 2008-2009 Budgets

At the beginning of May, SOSCN wrote to all council leaders, requesting information on financial spending 2008-2009 under the Freedom of Information Act. We have requested details of the amount of money available within the current financial year for supporting and developing childcare and out of school care in particular. We have also asked for details of how much money will be available for childcare workforce development and qualifications, with particular reference to out of school care staff.

Under the new Concordat agreement between local authorities and the Scottish Government, SOSCN is interested to see how this is affecting financial support to the sector. This information will be shared once all local authorities have responded.

Consultation Responses

Scottish Social Services Council – “Consultation on issues relating to workers in seasonal services”

Closed: 05/05/2008

Scottish Social Services Council- “Consultation on rules and requirements for awards developed from the Standard for childcare practice 2008”

Closed: 9/05/08

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

Closed: 16/05/2008

SOSCN's responses to all the above consultations can be found at www.socn.org

Current Consultations

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

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

Closes: 30/06/08 (Please note that this deadline has been extended from 02/05/08)

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 Social Services Council – “Continuous Learning Framework Consultation”

(www.sssc.uk.com/Education+and+training/Continuous+Learning+Framework/Continuous+Learning+Framework.htm)

Closes: 30/05/2008

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC)- “Consultation on proposed amendments to the SSSC's Conduct Rules”

(www.sssc.uk.com/News+and+Events/Projects+and+Consultations/Consultation+on+proposed+amendments+to+SSSC+Conduct+Rules.htm)

Closes: 30/06/2008

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.

SOSCN Events

“Different But Equal. Inclusive Care – Training & Awareness”

13th June, 10am – 4.30 pm

Radisson Hotel, Argyle Street, Glasgow

Following on from the success of previous conferences we shall be looking at ways of supporting children and young people with additional support needs, and their families, in mainstream and specialist out of school care. The day will provide delegates with the opportunity to hear about developments within the sector, discuss policy and good practice, and participate in practical training & awareness sessions. Keynote presentations & workshops will be given by nationally and internationally recognised and respected experts in the field of children & young people with additional support needs.

Chair: Sandra Kerley, Director of Operations, Capability Scotland

Confirmed keynote speakers & provisional presentation titles:

Tina Green, Operations Manager, *The OSCAR Foundation (New Zealand)*
“Practice in New Zealand”

Theresa Casey, President, *International Play Association (IPA)*
“Inclusive practice internationally”

Lesley Hamilton, Out of School Care Development Officer, North Ayrshire Council
“An award-winning example of Inclusive practice in Scotland”

Maire McCormack, Head of Policy, SCCYP

Gavin Crosby, Outreach Development Officer, CIS Enquire

Confirmed workshops:

Playworkers from The Life Skills Development Foundation (LSDF), Thailand; Capability Scotland; Epilepsy Connections; ENABLE Scotland; The Big Lottery. Certificates of attendance at practical workshops will be awarded which can be used towards CPD.

Delegate Rates

	Members	Non-members
Local Authority/ Statutory Organisations etc	£130	£170
Early Bird Offer- book before 23rd May	£120	£160
Out of School Care Providers	£110	£130
Early Bird Offer- book before 23rd May	£100	£120

*Cost includes all refreshments, buffet lunch and materials for the day.

Book now and take advantage of our early bird booking fee. For further information and updates, and a booking form, check www.soscn.org/events.html