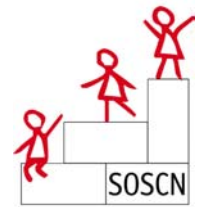


# Scottish Out of School Care Network

## Policy Newsletter, September 2008



*"Supporting play, care and learning"*

### **Policy News**

#### **Scottish Government & COSLA - Early Years & Early Intervention**

The working groups convened by the government and COSLA completed their reporting back at the end of June; since then the government and COSLA have been looking at all the consultation responses. We are expecting an announcement from the government and a launch of the strategy this autumn.

The SOSCN and Children in Scotland joint seminar to be held in Stirling at the end of October (see over for details) is a direct result of the work undertaken by the workforce development working group.

#### **Consultation Responses**

##### **Scottish Government- Taking Forward the Economic Strategy**

Response submitted July 2008

##### **Labour Party Consultation- A Positive Start for Every Child Consultation**

Response submitted July 2008

SOSCN's responses to both the above consultations can be found at [www.socn.org](http://www.socn.org)

#### **Current Research Publications**

##### **Pre-school & Childcare Statistics 2008**

The Scottish Government released the Pre-school & Childcare Statistics 2008 on the 17<sup>th</sup> September. The statistics show there are a total of 1,105 out of school care services in Scotland (a loss of 13 on last year's figures), of which 764 state that out of school care is their main service ("stand-alone OSC"), down 10 from last year. These 764 services have a total of 34,420 children registered or attending; this is the second largest sector behind nurseries which have 133,030 children registered/attending, and ahead of childminders (25,240) and playgroups (12,780).

Of the 1,105 services, 46% are managed by the voluntary sector, 31% by the private sector and 21% by the public sector. Out of school care services are evenly distributed across all areas of deprivation (most deprived, intermediate and least deprived) at 33%.

67% of all out of school care services are located within urban areas, 13% in small towns and 20% in rural areas.

Of the "stand-alone OSC", 9% have their own premises, 49% are located within schools, 22% are located in "other premises" and 20% are "unknown".

The statistics also show that the out of school care workforce is the least qualified of all the sectors- 35% of staff have no childcare qualification.

For further information:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238307/0065417.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238307/0065417.pdf)

SOSCN, Level 2, 100 Wellington Street, Glasgow G2 6DH

[www.socn.org](http://www.socn.org)

0141 564 1284

### **Perspectives on Early Years Services: Qualitative Research with Service Users**

The Scottish Government recently commissioned GEN and Illuminate to conduct focus groups with parents and children looking at their experiences of, and views on, early years services. The results were published mid-September and the evidence will help inform the Early Years Strategy.

Parents and children were asked for their views and attitudes on a variety of subjects: Pre-conception, Ante and Post-natal Care; Childcare & Early Education; Play & Leisure; Health, and Parenting & Family Support.

The overall main findings are as follow:

- “• Families frequently do not know where to access information on what services are available to them;
- The skills, attitudes and approach taken by staff are crucial to how service users of all ages assess the quality of services;
- Access to transport is an issue for families living in rural and urban areas. It impacts on their ability to access services and amenities;
- Perceptions and experiences of safety impact on the freedom that parents and carers allow their children;
- A significant proportion of parents and carers do not differentiate between the purposes of early education and the purposes of childcare. This can leave them dissatisfied with the hours provided by early education services;
- The cost of childcare can be prohibitive and acts as a barrier to parents and carers returning to work;
- Children, parents and carers value local provision of clean, safe and accessible outdoor play areas;
- National health and healthy eating campaigns have had an impact on children's attitudes;
- Both adults and children value choice in the services they use;
- Parents of children with additional support needs face barriers to a wide range of services across all of the themes of the Early Years Framework.” (p2)

#### **Childcare service needs**

The results show that most parents and carers need affordable, accessible, high quality childcare which with work or training patterns meaning it must have flexibility. Affordable, quality childcare should also be available during holidays and in-service days.

The vast majority of parents **“also want childcare for school age children to be available in all primary schools both during term time and holiday periods”** and that **“they also need after school care if they are to take up employment or training outside of school hours”**.

The study also highlights that if the following areas were addressed, then the childcare available to families in Scotland would be greatly improved:

- “• There is a lack of childcare provision for children with additional support needs;
- Affordable or free childcare;
- There is a lack of childcare choice in local areas, in particular, rural areas;
- All childcare to have access to good quality outdoor areas which are used daily;
- Childcare with flexible and extended hours to fit with work and training, including bank holidays and in service days;
- All schools to have out of school care services and holiday clubs;

- *Parents don't always know about the help that is available to find out about what childcare is available, how to make the right choice for them and what initiatives are in place to help them pay for it; and*
- *Parents and carers do not want to feel pressurised to return to work and believe that regardless of their economic circumstance, they should be able to stay at home and look after their children."*

Whilst the research perhaps does not raise many new issues, it supports what SOSCN and the out of school care sector as a whole have been highlighting for years, but more importantly this evidence is provided by the service users: children and parents/carers themselves. This is an important document which should not only inform the government's early years strategy but also our sector's strategy for the future of out of school care in Scotland.

Reference & further information:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/10110456/17](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/10110456/17)

## News

### Radical Plan to Develop Provision of Childcare within Glasgow

In September 2008 Glasgow launched their vision and strategy for early childhood services and extended services to children and families (including childcare up to age 14).

This long-term strategy is underpinned by investment of £2 million per annum, for a mix of pilots and initiatives, which will ensure that the strategy will be part of wider employment initiatives and in ending child poverty in Glasgow.

While awaiting the development and implementation details, SOSCN, commends this strategy and is pleased to see that families with children up to and including 14 year olds are included. SOSCN hopes to see in Glasgow, investment and pilots for services for older children. Glasgow also mentions the role schools can play and an opening up of premises to accommodate the delivery of this vision. SOSCN hopes that this is achieved in partnership with current out of school care providers and others who support activities for this age group after school.

Key milestones in the strategy include:

- **"Extended services in schools** will be further developed and supported up to the age of 14 years+ to provide childcare opportunities as well as extended educational opportunities for children and for families through access to school facilities in partnership with other service and voluntary providers.
- There will be **high quality education and high quality childcare services** in a range of settings and services in the city: council, voluntary and private sector for children from birth to 14 years with strengthened authority quality assurance arrangements.
- **High quality wraparound childcare up to the age of 14 years** provided on the establishment site or through other local providers, with supervised transfer arrangements where appropriate, available **8am — 6pm all year round."**

Further information is available from the submitted strategy paper, which is attached to the council minutes, available at:

[http://www.glasgowcitycouncil.co.uk/committee\\_minutes/public/extdocviewtop.asp?CID=2481&DATE=12/09/2008&TIME=11:00&DAY=Friday&PAGE=1](http://www.glasgowcitycouncil.co.uk/committee_minutes/public/extdocviewtop.asp?CID=2481&DATE=12/09/2008&TIME=11:00&DAY=Friday&PAGE=1)

## SOSCN Events



Children in Scotland



## SOSCN & CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND SEMINAR

**“Working it Out- helping to shape the future of Scotland’s children’s sector workforce”**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
The Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling**

Scotland needs a children's sector workforce able to meet the many new challenges that today's society brings. As services provide more support for children and their families and seek to develop child and family centred approaches, its role has never been more important and the expectations placed upon it so great.

The Scottish Out of School Care Network is holding this event as part of the Working It Out programme run by Children in Scotland. It will examine workforce reform within the school age child care sector, discuss the implications of extending qualification requirements for work in schools age childcare and related areas and share visions of what the future might and should hold for the children's sector workforce.

Delegates will hear from a Danish pedagogue working in school age childcare services, discuss the merits of a new professional Scottish pedagogue role and offer an opportunity to be part of the debate on workforce reform.

Further information and a booking form are attached to the Policy Newsletter email, alternatively, go to [www.soscn.org](http://www.soscn.org) or contact Finlay on 0141 564 1284.

### **WORKING IT OUT**

**The Working It Out: helping to shape the future of Scotland's children's sector workforce** is a programme being undertaken by Children in Scotland with the support of the Scottish Government. For further information: [www.childreninscotland.org](http://www.childreninscotland.org)