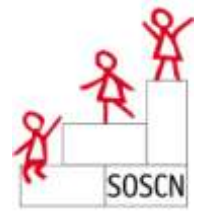


# Scottish Out of School Care Network

## Policy Newsletter, September 2011



*"Supporting play, care and learning"*

### Scottish Government Consultations

#### Proposed new Early Years and Early Intervention Legislation

**Deadline for responses: 7th October 2011**

Earlier this month, Angela Constance, Minister for Children and Young People, said in a statement about a *Potential new Early Years and Early Intervention Legislation* consultation that the Scottish Government welcomes any early suggestions on where you think legislation could help promote the joined-up delivery of early years services and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). In particular, people are being asked to respond to the following questions:

##### Early years

1. Are there any areas where you believe legislation could help to hasten the development of early years services - either by promoting good practice or removing barriers to good practice?
2. Are there any areas where you believe legislation would actively hinder the development of effective early years services?

##### Getting it right for every child

1. Are there any areas where you believe legislation could help to hasten the pace of adoption of Getting it Right- either by promoting good practice or removing barriers to good practice?
2. Are there any areas where you believe legislation would actively hinder the adoption of Getting it Right?

**This is your opportunity to feed into the process at an early stage- we would encourage you to take part.**

Responses should be emailed to: [childrenserviceslegislation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:childrenserviceslegislation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Response deadline: **7th October 2011**

To read Ms Constance's full statement, and further information:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/legislation/minister/initial-plans>

#### Consultation on Rights of Children and Young People Bill

Consultation opened: **8th September 2011**

Consultation deadline: **1st December 2011**

Consultation document: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/07110058/10>

The Scottish Government has announced ambitious plans for legislation and policy development that will force a major shift in services for children and young people. The focus will be on a new approach, based on:

- Prevention
- appropriate early intervention

- child-centred service delivery; and
- support for parents to build their confidence and capacity.

Consultation has already started on The Rights of Children and Young People Bill, with a Children's Services Bill planned for 2013.

There have been a number of events associated with the Rights of Children and Young People, and Children's Services Bills. SOSCN attended the first of these events which was held in Glasgow on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. At the events we highlighted the need for additional resources to be directed to school-aged childcare as the Early Years Framework covers children aged 0 – 8+, and that preventative spend must follow children as they grow up and not be solely focused on pre-school services.

## Other News

### Scottish Spending Review and Draft Budget 2012-2013

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/09/22135416/30>

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September the Scottish Government published the Scottish Spending Review and Draft Budget 2012-2013 which states the proposed focuses, including monetary budgets for the next couple of years. Unsurprisingly, the current poor economic situation is a focus of this document which suggests that it will take more than 10 years before Scotland's economy returns, in real terms, to levels similar to those of 2009. This of course means that financial resources available through government will be limited and focused on priorities.

Policies and strategies such as Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), The Early Years Framework and The Curriculum for Excellence will continue to be the guiding documents for children's services, with a focus on preventative spend, especially within pre-school services.

At a national level we shall continue to highlight the need for out of school care to be included in preventative spend as well as how it supports all the aforementioned policies. At a local level, services and networks need also to demonstrate to local community planning how out of school care supports these objectives. In particular, services should be able to show how they support the SHANARRI (Safe; Healthy; Achieving; Nurtured; Active; Respected; Responsible; Included) child centred wellbeing indicators which come from GIRFEC.

It is clear that the difficult economic situation is set to continue for the coming years, and as a sector we must work together to ensure that out of school care successfully continues through this period.

## Publications

2 publications of interest were published earlier this month:

### **Save the Children's Making Work Pay- The Childcare Trap Report**

[http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Making\\_Work\\_Pay\\_Scotland\\_briefing.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Making_Work_Pay_Scotland_briefing.pdf)

### **The Scottish Government's Programme for Scotland 2011 – 2012**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/357452/0120728.pdf>

Comment from Irene Audain, SOSCN CEO relating to the above documents.

"I strongly welcome the recommendations set out in Save the Children's "Making Work Pay" report out yesterday, which sets out how parents in Scotland, especially those on the lowest incomes, find it difficult to move into employment due to the lack of affordable and available good quality childcare. To deal with this situation the report recommends the delivery of subsidised good quality childcare places, including out of school care and school holidays care places for the lowest income families. This report also shows that childcare tax credits are still not enough to help make work pay in terms of supporting childcare costs, so there needs to be additional help in subsidising childcare for lower income families. I have a great deal of sympathy for parents struggling to cover childcare costs, which are the highest in Europe; at the same time I also know that school age childcare and holiday services are increasingly vulnerable to cuts in any core subsidies they might still receive, indeed many now only survive on fee income alone as staff wages are kept low; despite the requirement for higher level qualifications they are now working to achieve; essential both for quality services and their professional identity. "

"Subsidising out of school and holiday places for the lowest income families would have the benefit of providing socially excluded children with opportunities for play and learning in their community, for helping their parents take up training and work opportunities, which, in turn, helps breaks the cycle of deprivation for both families and communities, both for the short and long term. "

"These steps are essential to deliver the Scottish Government's programme of government, also announced yesterday, which includes commitments to early years preventative spending and to ensure the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, (UNCRC) is fully supported in legislation. These are welcome commitments to the wellbeing of all of Scotland's children, and their families, now and for their future, but as ever, the devil will be in the detail, of how this will be achieved. "

"Intervention and support in the earliest years needs to be sustained beyond preschool for many children and families. It should be recognised that investment in school age childcare is also an integral element of the preventative spending required for the early years strategy, by breaking the cycle of deprivation which leads to poor future outcomes in terms of health, well being, educational and economic participation. This cycle of deprivation also exclude children from participation in play, learning and educational opportunities, in their day to day lives, in the here and now. "

"If the Scottish Government is truly committed to the UNCRC, they should ensure that the childcare needs of school age children are fully included in the development and delivery of early years preventative spending and strategies, and if they are committed to ensuring that work pays for parents, then the issue of subsidising childcare at source for low income families has to be more fully addressed. "

*Irene Audain, SOSCN CEO*

## **SCSWIS Updates**

### **SCSWIS name change – now the "Care Inspectorate"**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> September Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health, announced a change of the everyday name from SCSWIS to the "Care Inspectorate".

Although the formal name, Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) is set out in legislation and so will not change, in all day-to-day business the regulatory body will be known as the "Care Inspectorate".

## **Interim Policy on Peripatetic Managers in Daycare of Children's Services**

### **Context and purpose**

The previous regulatory body the Care Commission was asked by umbrella organisations such as SOSCN to consider the role of peripatetic managers i.e. managers who are responsible for more than one day care of children's service and are therefore not present at all times during service operation. This interim policy has been written to clarify in what circumstances a peripatetic manager (manager of more than one care service) would be acceptable to the regulator. This interim policy was revised following extensive consultation and implemented by the Care Inspectorate from September 2011.

The Care Inspectorate is currently developing a new children's services inspection methodology for piloting during 2012/12. This interim policy will be reviewed as part of that process.

### **Interim Policy**

Peripatetic managers of day care of children services will be acceptable to Care Inspectorate where the provider can demonstrate continuing compliance with the relevant regulations, National Care Standards and any conditions of registration and, most importantly, good outcomes for children. The interim policy has been written to outline circumstances where the Care Inspectorate will consider the application of a peripatetic manager in services.

Download a copy of the interim peripatetic manager policy:

[http://www.scswis.com/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_details&gid=518&Itemid=719](http://www.scswis.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_details&gid=518&Itemid=719)

## **OTHER EVENTS**

### **Children in Europe 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**

*"Working with Wāhnau: place, space and connectedness in early childhood"*

11<sup>th</sup> October, Stirling Business Management Centre

Ten years after the launch of Children in Europe magazine this anniversary conference explores some of the key issues raised over the decade and their implications for the workforce. Leading international and UK experts will consider how services contribute to children's sense of belonging and connectedness with families and community. It will consider the skills and competences required by professionals, parents and communities to best develop the potential of the child during the formative years.

For further information: <http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk/html/training/show.php?ref=1560>