

Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring Group

Monday 29th April 2013
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh
14:00 – 16:00

Attended:

Tam Baillie (Chair) – SCCYP
Nico Juetten – SCCYP
Cathy Begley – SCCYP
Juliet Harris – Together
Colin Morrison – Together
Boyd McAdam – Scottish Government
Scott Wood – Scottish Government
Gita Sharkey – Scottish Government
Tim Honisett (notes) – Scottish Government

Apologies:

Stefan Stoyanov – SCCYP
Katie Brown – SCCYP

2. Review of actions in minutes of 19th December 2012

SW requested that the section focussing on consultation with children and young people (section 4) be re-written to make clear that the business plan being developed related to the desktop research being commissioned by the Government and not to wider capacity building within the organisation.

Section 5, page 3 (common core) – Boyd asked that this be revised to make clear that guidance and training linked to GIRFEC should promote the Common Core. There was no specific proposal to map GIRFEC across the Common Core.

Otherwise, the minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising

CRIA. TB expressed disappointment that a CRIA was not undertaken as part of the Bill process. He stated that he will be discussing this with co-signatories of his letter to the Minister and would be offering a written response. Similarly, JH would speak to Together members before initiating a response.

UPR Response. JH asked what the next steps were with the UPR process. SW commented that plans are being developed for further stakeholder engagement to inform the mid-term report on the UPR. NJ confirmed that SCCYP would be seeking to engage with that process. SW would be meeting Trevor Owen shortly and would flag the ongoing interest being shown by the group in this work.

Third Sector Intervention Fund. *SW* fed back regarding allocation of TSIE funding, stating that funding allocations had now been confirmed. *BM* provided an update on the additional £10M of funding that was being made available for the development of third sector strategic funding partnerships.

JH briefly described the additional work that Together would take forward as a consequence of their successful bid for TSEI funding. The funds would be used to increase Together's capacity to engage in national policy development and to increase the scope for their engagement in the UN Committee's upcoming review of UNCRC implementation in the UK.

BM asked about the development of the NHS Lothian training materials which Together had highlighted in their written update. *JH* confirmed that the aim was to publish the materials shortly. *BM* was keen to explore how those training materials could be linked with any NHS Lothian training focussing on GIRFEC.

SW and *NJ* were yet to meet with Jim Wilson from the Scottish Government to discuss plans for future criminal justice legislation.

- **Action** : *SW* to arrange meeting with Jim Wilson (Justice).

Realising and Recognising Rights: *SW* confirmed that work was ongoing within Education Scotland to develop a resource designed to support improved awareness and understanding of children's rights in Schools across Scotland. Whilst the Group welcomed this, both *CB* and *CM* were concerned by the lack of information available about progress being made and suggested a more inclusive approach involving key partners should be strongly encouraged. There were also concerns about Education Scotland's ability to deliver finalised, agreed resources in advance of the Scottish Learning Festival (their intended launch date). *SW* agreed to feed this back to Education Scotland.

4. Key theme:

Scottish Government response to the CYP Bill Consultation

TB stated that his general view on the Bill was one of disappointment. He considered the Ministerial rights duty to be significantly weaker than that which was initially proposed and sought clarification on what Government expected that duty to achieve. *SW* explained that the Bill was designed to ensure the continuous review of Scottish Government activity in order to ensure that proper consideration was being given to UNCRC when policies and legislation were being developed. Some form of impact assessment would be developed to support implementation of the duty. *NJ* did not feel that duty as currently drafted reflected the policy intention.

TB welcomed the duty to promote public awareness and understanding of the UNCRC but was keen to hear more about how that duty would be satisfied.

JH echoed the views offered by *TB*.

NJ highlighted the provisions in the Bill linked to the sharing of information and was keen to explore in more detail the impact that these changes would have on the child's right to privacy. *BM* referred to the recent advice offered by the Information Commissioner's Office of the subject and made the offer of a follow up discussion with *NJ* if that would be helpful.

SW confirmed that no firm timetable was in place for the Bill's passage through Parliament but suggested it likely that the process would take the best part of a calendar year from the date of introduction.

- **Action:** *SW* will share details of the timetable for the Bill as they become available.
- Action: *BM* to have follow up discussion with *NJ* re ICO advice.
- **Action:** *TB* to offer a written response to publication of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Bill.

5. Standing item

UNCRC 2014 report process. Including consultation process with children and young people.

SW provided the group with an update. The Scottish Government's contribution to the next UK State Party report on UNCRC implementation due to be submitted by the end of June 2013. There would be a period of negotiation after this date involving Ministers from each of the UK Administrations.

To support the development of Scotland's contribution, Susan Elsley and Kay Tisdall were commissioned to undertake a piece of desk based research focussing on the views and experiences of children on issues linked to UNCRC implementation since 2008. A first draft of the report had now been submitted.

The Scottish Government would also be contributing to Together's upcoming series of seminars, seeking views from stakeholders on the progress which had been made since the UN Committee last considered the United Kingdom's approach.

Whilst the UK was continuing to work to a January 2014 deadline for submitting its report, it remained likely that there would be a significant delay in the Committee considering its content.

- **Action :** *SW* to meet with SCCYP and Together in June 2013 to discuss a draft of the Scottish Government's submission.

8. A.O.B

SW discussed the possibility of strengthening links with the Children's Rights Officer's Network. *TB* felt this was worth exploring and agreed to follow up after the meeting.

- **Action :** *SW / TB* to follow up discussion on strengthening links with Child Rights Officers' Network

7. Theme and date of next meeting.

Next date for August 2013.

- **Action** : Next date to be arranged by SCCYP.

Summary of Actions	Responsibility	Progress
Matters arising		
SW to arrange meeting with Jim Wilson.	SW	
SW will keep the group updated on the UPR process.	SW	
Key theme: Scottish Government response to the CYP Bill Consultation		
SW will share details of Bill timetable with the group, once available.	SW	
BM to have follow up discussion with NJ re ICO advice.	BM / NJ	
TB to offer a written response to publication of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Bill.	TB	
Standing issue: UNCRC 2014 reporting process. Including consultation process with children and young people		
SW will meet with SCCYP and Together in June 2013 to discuss the early phase of the report.	SW	
SW / TB to follow up discussion on strengthening links with Child Rights Officers' Network..	SW / TB	
Theme and date for next meeting		
To be arranged by SCCYP	SCCYP	