



Together

Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights

**Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st March 2015**

Registered charity number: SC029403

Registered company number: SC199725

Registered Office:
Rosebery House
9 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh EH12 5EZ

www.togetherscotland.org.uk
[@together_sacr](#)

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Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	
Charity Registration Number:	SC029403	
Company Number:	SC199725	
Registered Office:	Rosebery House 9 Haymarket Terrace Edinburgh EH12 5EZ	
Telephone:	0131 337 9015	
Email:	info@togetherscotland.org.uk	
Website:	www.togetherscotland.org.uk	
Trustees:	Chair:	Alex Cole-Hamilton
	Treasurer:	Kate Higgins
	Board Members:	Selwyn McCausland (Vice Chair) Kelly Bayes Susan Elsley Fiona Jones Elizabeth Morrison (to 12 th May 2014) Chelsea Stinson Claire Telfer Samantha White
Company Secretary:	Juliet Harris	
Bankers:	Bank of Scotland 20/22 Shandwick Place Edinburgh EH2 4RN	
Independent Examiner:	Mairi McReynolds FCCA Barnardo's Scotland 235 Corstorphine Road Edinburgh EH12 7AR	
Volunteer Accountant	Ian J Douglas	

Report of the Trustees 2013-14

The Trustees submit their Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31st March 2014.

1. Objectives and Activities

The Charity was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 8th September 1999, to further the education of the community on rights of children and young people as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Donations and membership payments have been received throughout the year from organisations and private individuals. The Charity's affairs are managed by regular meetings of the Trustees of the Company. Throughout 2013-14, the day to day activities of Together were carried out by a full time Director and Policy & Communications Officer and part-time Administrator. The staff team were supported by two part-time interns and a volunteer accountant. The Board of Trustees provided strategic direction and oversight to the charity.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustees are elected or re-elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. The number of Trustees shall not exceed 10 persons. All Trustees are appointed for an initial 3 year term after which they can be re-elected for a further 3 years. The Trustees hold regular board meetings and monitor the financial situation of the Charity closely.

3. Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should be available to cover 3 months of the resources expended. If funds were to drop significantly below this level, the Trustees would consider replacement funding, or reconsider the charity's activities.

4. Risk Review

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

5. Review of Activities

As outlined in the Together Business Plan, Together's vision is that all children in Scotland enjoy their rights according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other human rights conventions. Throughout 2014-15, Together has worked towards this vision through three key aims:

1. Promoting awareness and understanding of the UNCRC.
2. Monitor implementation of the UNCRC.
3. Report on progress on the implementation of the UNCRC and push for full implementation.

Together was able to take forward these aims with funding from the Scottish Government and the Early Intervention Fund. Funding from the Scottish Government has enabled Together to continue employing a Director and Administrator. The Early Intervention Fund has enabled Together to continue employing a Policy and Communications Officer. Together received funding from Adopt An Intern to employ a Membership and Events Intern for three months between September and December 2014.

Between March 2014 and March 2015, Together and its Board of Trustees undertook in-depth work to update and revise Together's Business Plan.

During this period, Together's aims were taken forward through the following activities:

5.1. Promoting awareness and understanding of the UNCRC

- ***Continue to increase membership base to make it broadly representative of the children's sector across Scotland and keep up-to-date and fulfil information needs of members***

Members

Together has continued to promote membership at every opportunity. In the last year, we increased our membership by 42, from 256 to 298. New Together members have helped to diversify and strengthen membership in areas including planning and women's rights, and 7 new public body representatives have joined the organisation.

Throughout 2014-15, Together consulted with members to explore how they could get more involved in the promotion and monitoring of the UNCRC in Scotland. In a survey of 47 members undertaken in March 2015, 96% of respondents stated that Together had fulfilled its aim to provide relevant and useful information on children's rights and the UNCRC very well or well.

E-newsletter

The fortnightly e-newsletter has proved a continued success with members and supporters and now has over 1141 subscribers (an increase of 146 on the previous year). News, resources, information and events, all with a child rights focus, are submitted by children's organisations across Scotland on an increasing basis and occasionally internationally. The most well-read articles continue to be specific child-rights research and resources relating to Scotland. In a survey of e-newsletter subscribers undertaken in March 2015, 84% of respondents stated that the e-newsletter has enabled them to bring more of a child rights approach to their work. Respondents to the survey also noted:

"We are developing more child-rights focused seminars as a result of the newsletter update"

"Just learning more about rights, and opportunities to tie children's rights into our work has made us as an organisation more aware and more confident in incorporating the language of rights into our policy and campaign work"

Twitter

In August 2013, Together established a Twitter account. By the end of March 2014, there were 231 followers. In March 2015, Together had 637 followers.

Blog

Together launched a blog site in October 2014 to create an exciting space to for members, local government, public bodies and civil society to learn more about children's rights. So far there have been 5 guest articles from written by Together members and human rights institutions on issues facing children in Scotland.

The blog has been visited by just under 450 people and has attracted 5 guest blogs from members and human rights institutions. Together is looking at ways to increase awareness of the blog and has a number of members interested in submitting future articles.

- ***Promote greater awareness of good practice of the UNCRC beyond existing membership and engage with wider stakeholders including health, education and community groups to create partnerships for strategic influence***

Contribution to groups and networks

Together continues to contribute to the Cross Party Group for children and young people and seeks to ensure a focus on the UNCRC during meetings. Together continues to attend the Children's Sector Forum and the informal Children's Policy Officer Network (CPON), raising a child-rights perspective and expertise to Scottish policy issues. Together's Policy and Communications Officer sits on the coordination group of for Scotland's Disabled Children to help embed a rights-based approach to its work for children and young people with disabilities. The alliance has called for Child Rights Impact Assessments, has circulated Together reports to its members and has raised the UNCRC in its consultation responses in the past year. Together also continues to play an active role in the strategic planning of the Children are Unbeatable! alliance, advocating for clear messages regarding

equal protection from assault. Together's Director sits on a Strategic Litigation Network which combines the expertise of legal and policy professionals to seek opportunities through which strategic litigation can be used to progress children's rights, and has recently presented to this group.

Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights

Together's Director sits on two working groups taking forward the Action Plan: 'Meeting Our International Obligations' and 'Justice and Safety' and provides strong expert input as to how children's rights should be taken forward. This has led to focused discussion on children's rights issues including equal protection from assault and the age of criminal responsibility and reflection on the rights of children in wider discussions on hate crime.

Conference and events

Together provided an annual lecture to the University of Edinburgh's Childhood Studies postgraduate Masters on children's rights in Scotland. Together received excellent feedback from this lecture and it has continued the close relationship between the University of Edinburgh and Together through which students are made aware of Together's internship opportunities.

Together has been successful in establishing connections with a number of European organisations through which knowledge and expertise in implementing children's rights and opportunities for funding have been shared. This has been the result of attending the Eurochild Annual Conference 2014 and the Eurochild Conference 2015 focusing on the EU programme of Investing in Children.

Together has attended and presented at numerous events in the past year to provide expertise in children's rights in a Scottish context. This has included the Integrated Children's Services Conference, Aberdeen; the 'Rights Here: Rights Now!' Conference, Swansea; the SUII intersectionality seminar series and the ROCK event 'Placing Children's Rights at the Heart of UK Law', London.

• *Inform and influence government policy and practice.*

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Together has informed and influenced the development of guidance to support implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This has included providing children's rights expertise to the Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) guidance group and the Children's Services Plan guidance group. In relation to Part 1 of the 2014 Act, Together has been working with the Scottish Government to try to ensure that robust and clear guidance will be developed to support all duties including raising awareness and understanding of the UNCRC and considering children's views.

Between March 2014 and March 2015, Together responded to a number of Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament consultations, inputting a children's rights perspective and UNCRC expertise.

Together has also encouraged a number of its members to take a children's rights approach to their submissions.

Together submitted responses to:

- The Smith Commission consultation
- The Scottish Government National Care Standards Review
- The Scottish Government review of the Antisocial Behaviour Act
- The Scottish Government Set 1 & Set 2 Regulations for the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act consultations
- The Scottish Government Electoral Future consultation
- The Scottish Parliament Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill consultation
- The Scottish Government Getting It Right for Young Performers consultation
- The Scottish Government Carers Legislation consultation
- The Scottish Government Proposals for a Mental Health (Scotland) Bill
- The Law Society Scotland's discussion paper for evidence on legal assistance in Scotland.

Together also submitted a response to the UK Joint Committee on Human Rights: Inquiry into UK UNCRC compliance. This response led to a specific recommendation from the UK Joint Committee to the UK government to consider the complexities of devolution in regards to implementation of the UNCRC.

5.2. Monitor implementation of the UNCRC

- ***Monitor and assess Scottish Government's progress in fully implementing the UNCRC across local authority areas, issues and sectors***

State of Children's Rights report

In November 2014, Together launched its fifth *State of Children's Rights* report, providing a non-government perspective on the extent to which children in Scotland are able to enjoy the rights enshrined in the UNCRC. It reflected on the progress made over the previous year since the publication of Together's 2013 *State of Children's Rights* report, and discussed what progress has been made and where further efforts are needed. The report drew from evidence gathered through desk research, through 25 consultation responses from Together's members followed by 10 thematic focus groups on issues including children of prisoners, child trafficking and disability and mental health.

The report highlighted a number of legislative and policy developments taken by the Scottish Government that show a clear commitment to further the UNCRC and promote its implementation. However, it also highlighted that much more needs to be done to ensure that all children in Scotland have their rights realised all of the time. Key themes included access to justice and awareness and

understanding of the UNCRC and recommendations included in the report have been brought to the Scottish Government through the Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring Group (SCRIMG) meetings (see 5.3).

Highlight new developments and resources available to support practitioners within geographic, thematic and sectorial areas

www.togetherscotland.org.uk

Together's website provides a growing online resource library which contains a wide range of resources related to children's rights on a local, national and international level, provided by Together's members and partners. This includes the latest research, training materials, news and best practice on children's rights. In the past year, additional features have been added at the request of Together members, including a page dedicated to human rights bodies and reporting. On average, the number of visitors to the website has increased over the past year to an average of 306 unique visits every week, which is an increase of 17 visitors per week since the previous year.

Facilitate the participation of children's organisations in monitoring the implementation of the UNCRC.

Together regional seminars

Four seminars took place during March 2015 in Ayr, Inverness, Dundee and Dumfries, attended by over 140 professionals working with or for children and young people. The seminar programme explored the extent to which children across Scotland are able to realise their rights as enshrined in the UNCRC. A report of the findings from the discussion groups was produced for each seminar and these were then collated to inform Together's NGO report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (collated later in 2015). The seminars received excellent feedback and encouraged a number of new members to join Together including the Royal Society of the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and the Royal Education Caledonian Trust (RCET).

5.3 Report on progress on the implementation of the UNCRC and push for full implementation.

Identify and tackle key obstacles/levers of change to improve implementation of the UNCRC and hold UK and Scottish Governments and other duty-bearers to account on their implementation of the UNCRC.

Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring group

Together seeks to hold the Scottish Government to account on its implementation of the UNCRC through the Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring group (SCRIMG). This is a three-

way meeting including Together, the Scottish Government and Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People with the purpose of:

- sharing and discussing relevant statistical information and reports;
- discussing and, where possible, reaching common understanding on progress made at a central and local level and remaining gaps in implementation;
- discussing and highlighting emerging issues and, where possible, agreeing approaches and actions to address them;
- discussing specific thematic areas related to children's rights.

In 2014-15, there were 2 meetings of SCRIMG. These meetings primarily concentrated on the SCRIMG Terms of Reference, commencement and guidance for Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Rights of the Child UK Coalition

Together's Director is Chair of the ROCK coalition, a group of voluntary organisations and individuals from across the UK pushing for the full incorporation of the UNCRC into domestic law. Together has provided administrative support to the coalition which has included updating the ROCK website and preparations for the ROCK conference which took place in February 2015.

NGO 4-nations reporting meetings (telecom)

Together's Director has been chairing NGO 4-nations reporting meetings (by telecom) to support the coordination of UK NGO reporting. This has involved mapping organisations involved in the reporting process and leading on work to support the request for members of the UN Committee to visit all nations in the UK.

Highlight successes and areas to improve UNCRC implementation on an international level

Together has taken part in two Eurochild Conferences, one of which was the annual conference titled 'Better Public Spending for Better Outcomes for Children & Families' whereby Together networked and established a number of contacts across the world to share good practice and gaps in implementing the UNCRC. Together also attended the Child Rights Connect AGM which offered the opportunity to learn from others in their efforts to protect and promote children's rights and to share good practice and areas for development in Scotland.

5.4. Establish & maintain functional governance structure

Together worked to meet Companies House and OSCR requirements.

Election of new Trustees

At the September 2014 AGM, Mark Ballard of Barnardo's, John Ryan of Aberlour Child Care Trust and Rozanne Chorlton were elected to the Together Board of Trustees.

Election of Office Bearers

Fiona Jones was elected as Chair and Susan Elsley as Vice-Chair. Kate Higgins was elected to continue as Treasurer.

Together's board brings a range of skills and expertise, offering valuable strategic oversight to the organisation. Board meetings are held roughly every two months, and subgroups have been established when needed to help focus expertise on certain issues. Earlier this year, a sub-group was formed to support NGO reporting to the UNCRC. Together has an ongoing Finance sub-committee.

Policies and procedures

Throughout the year, staff and the Together Board have continued to draft and revise organisational policies and procedures to ensure best practice in the day-to-day and overall governance of the charity are followed.

6. Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Basis of accounting

For the year ending 31 March 2014 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

By order of the Board

Alex Cole-Hamilton
September 2014

Independent examiner's report to the Board of the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2014, which are set out on pages 14 and 15.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Trustees (who are also the Trustees of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(a) to (c) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified Chartered Certified Accountant.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act) and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - which are consistent with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mairi McReynolds FCCA
September 2014

Statement of Financial Activity as at 31st March 2014

	Unrestricted Funds 2014	Restricted Funds 2014	Total fund 2014	Total funds 2013
Incoming Resources				
Incoming Resources from generated income:				
Voluntary Income	4620	100,000	104,620	79,362
Investment Income	0	0	0	0
Other incoming resources		0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources	4,620	100,000	104,620	79,362
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities	0	97,915	97,915	76,068
Governance costs	0	75	75	0
Total Resources Expended	0	97,990	97,990	76,068
Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources	4,620	2,010	6,630	3,294
Transfer between Funds	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds	4,620	2,010	6,630	3,294
Total Funds @ 31 March 2013	8,883	3,814	12,697	9,403
Total Funds @ 31 March 2014	13,503	5,824	19,327	12,697

Mairi McReynolds FCCA
September 2014

Notes:

No remuneration was paid to Trustees during the year.
Expenses of £75 were paid to Trustees during the year.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2014

	2014	2013
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,904	
Cash at Bank	<u>18,154</u>	<u>14,248</u>
	20,058	14,248
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>731</u>	<u>1,551</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>19,327</u>	<u>12,697</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>19,327</u>	<u>12,697</u>
Funds		
Restricted Funds	5,824	3,814
Unrestricted funds	<u>13,503</u>	<u>8,883</u>
Total Funds	<u>19,327</u>	<u>12,697</u>

Mairi McReynolds FCCA
September 2014