



## **Together**

Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights  
(limited by Guarantee)

### **Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

Registered charity number: SC029403  
Registered company number: SC199725

Registered Office:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Prospect House  
5 Thistle Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 1DF

[www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk)

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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: Prospect House  
5 Thistle Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 1DF

Telephone: 0131 225 8864

Email: [info@togetherscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@togetherscotland.org.uk)

Website: [www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk)

Directors: Chair: Kelly Bayes  
Treasurer: Douglas Hamilton

Board Members: Alex Cole-Hamilton  
Brian Donnelly  
Susan Elsley  
Gordon Frew  
Stephen McGinley  
Colin Morrison  
Elizabeth Morrison  
Zoe Picton-Howell

Company Secretary: Juliet Harris

Bankers: Bank of Scotland  
20/22 Shandwick Place  
Edinburgh EH2 4RN

Independent Examiner: Mairi McReynolds FCCA  
Barnardo's  
235 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh EH12 7AR

## **Report of the Directors 2009-10**

The Directors submit their Report and the Financial Statements for the period ended 31st March 2010.

### **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. Donations have been received throughout the year from organisations and private individuals. The Charity's affairs are managed by regular meetings of the Directors of the Company. From August 2009, the day to day activities of Together were carried out by a full time National Development Officer and part-time Administrator and supervised by the Directors.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Directors are elected or re-elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. The number of Directors shall not exceed 10 persons. All Directors are appointed for an initial 3 year term after which they can be re-elected for a further 3 years.

The Directors hold regular board meetings and monitor the financial situation of the Charity closely.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the Directors 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 Directors would consider replacement funding, or reconsider the charity's activities.

### **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.

## **Review of Activities and Plans for the Future**

As outlined in the Together Business Plan for 2009-2012, the charity has been working to fulfil three main aims:

- Promotion of UNCRC in Scotland
- Monitoring of UNCRC implementation in Scotland
- NGO reporting to the UN Monitoring Committee, next scheduled for 2014

Funding secured from the Scottish Government Children's Rights Team for 2009 – 2011 enabled Together to employ a National Development Officer and part-time Administrator to take forward these aims. The staff started in post in late August 2009, which was 3 months later than originally envisaged in the Together Business Plan.

Key events in the remainder of the year included the visit of Professor Lothar Krappmann, a Rapporteur on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. He attended the Together AGM and provided an important insight into the UNCRC reporting process. Also at the Together AGM, 6 new Directors were elected to the Board of Together, bringing a new range of skills and experience to the Board.

The National Development Officer undertook a consultation with members and supporters in Autumn 2009 to help to establish the priorities for her workplan and encourage more children's organisations to get involved. This has resulted in Together launching a new fortnightly e-newsletter to help address member's information needs, and in work being put into developing a new website with a searchable information archive on children's rights.

Throughout 2009-10, staff and the Together Board have been working to draft and revise the organisational policies and procedures to ensure best practice in the day-to-day and overall governance of the charity. This has been enhanced by an independently facilitated Board Training Day, held in March 2010, which looked at the legal roles and responsibilities of Board members, a skills audit, governance and the overall organisational strategy.

## Progress Against Goals

- **Creating affiliations with 3 'issue' based networks**

Together has affiliated itself with a number of issue-based networks, either with a view to bringing information from the network to disseminate to Together members, or to provide the network with a specific children's rights focus that it would otherwise lack. These networks are:

Rights of the Child UK (affiliated in October 2009)

Rights of the Child UK) (ROCK) is a coalition calling on the Government to make the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child part of UK law. It is made up of major charities, lawyers and children's rights activists. Together has been involved in raising awareness of the Children's Rights Bill, which was presented to the House of Lords in November 2009. As part of our role with ROCK, we have produced a briefing paper on the Children's Rights Bill for Together members and are exploring with SCCYP and Save the Children how this work could be further developed in Scotland.

For Scotland's Disabled Children (affiliated in October 2009)

In October 2009, the Board of Together made the decision to develop a special focus on the rights of children with a disability. This decision was made following a recommendation from Professor Lothar Krappmann, and within the NGO reporting guidelines, that one key issue should be tackled in depth each year to make the reporting process more manageable. The rights of children with a disability have been greatly overlooked in both reports to the UN Committee and in their Concluding Observations so seemed a natural choice for Together to focus on in the first year of reporting. As a result of the affiliation with For Scotland's Disabled Children, Together is working with Save the Children and a range of professionals to produce a child rights indicator framework around disability. This framework will be used in Together's 2010-11 State of Children's Rights report to assess to what extent the rights of children with disabilities are upheld in Scotland.

UNICEF Rights Respecting Communities (affiliated in January 2010)

Together was asked to join the steering group of UNICEF's Child Friendly Communities to help support and guide the initiative from a Scottish perspective. The aim of the initiative is to realise and embed child rights in local communities in the UK, thereby improving well-being and outcomes for children and young people through a rights-based community approach. Together will remain on the Steering Group for 12 months, in which time it will help to develop the quality standard framework for award and liaise with pilot initiatives within Edinburgh and Fife Councils.

In addition to these three networks, Together has been providing a children's rights focus to other networks on a more ad-hoc basis. These have included adapting the Terms of Reference for Children are Unbeatable to take account of the UN Concluding Observations (2008), participating in Scotland's Children's Forum, Scotland's Human Rights Consortium and working with the Scottish Human Rights Commission.

- **Regional Networks**

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Together hosted a free seminar in Glasgow. It was targeted at all those with an interest in children's rights and featured a mix of workshops and key speakers from the children's rights arena. Delegates rated the event highly in terms of learning about the UNCRC and interacting with other agencies and practitioners.

Feedback received from members led to Together re-evaluating its approach to Regional Networks. They will now start as online discussion groups, which may then develop organically into face-to-face meetings. Regional networks will be piloted in areas where there are already established networks to work with and will provide a model for learning and development to take to other parts of Scotland. This work will be taken forward in 2010-11.

- **Establishing a functional governance structure**

Six new Directors were appointed to the Board of Together in September 2009, increasing the total number of Directors from six to ten. The new Directors bring a range of expertise from academics to child rights officers and directors of national NGOs. Board meetings are held every two months, and subgroups have been established when needed to help focus expertise on certain issues. Together now has a ongoing subgroup to look at finance and fundraising. Further temporary subgroups were established in autumn 2009 to plan for Together's "What Can the UNCRC Do for You?" event, and to look at marketing and branding issues.

- **Increasing membership from both local and national agencies**

Since the new staff have been in post, Together has been pushing membership at every opportunity. Between August 2009 and March 2010, membership of Together has increased from 34 members to 68. This includes 42 children's organisations, 8 statutory bodies and 18 individuals. Throughout 2009, the National Development Officer consulted with members and non-member children's organisations to see how they could get more involved in the promotion and monitoring of the UNCRC in Scotland. Key issues raised through this consultation included:

- Smaller organisations felt that Together was only relevant to national organisations;
- All organisations stated a need for a 'One-Stop-Shop' online information service on children's rights;
- There was confusion around the acronym 'SACR';
- Many organisations did not feel they had the time/resources to attend regional network meetings, but were keen to get involved virtually.

As a result of this feedback, Together undertook a rebranding exercise, changing to "Together" from the "Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights". To follow up from this rebranding exercise, Together is now building website with online resource library to address member's needs for quick accessible information and training materials around children's rights. This will be launched in May 2010 and will include the facility for an online discussion forum, through which members can discuss local, regional and national issues.

- **Producing quarterly newsletters for members**

The consultation with members also showed need for an e-newsletter rather than paper newsletter originally planned in Together's business plan. A fortnightly e-newsletter was launched in March 2010, which contains the latest news on children's rights, events, funding opportunities and consultations. Most articles included in the e-newsletter are submitted by members, encouraging the sharing of information and best practice around children's rights. The first e-newsletter was sent to 476 recipients. 38% recipients opened the e-newsletter, with a click-through rate of 12% to featured articles. Future e-newsletters will be monitored to ensure that the service becomes increasingly relevant to member's needs. It will be promoted at events and through the website to encourage more children's organisations to subscribe.

- **Producing a first national annual monitoring report**

Together will publish an in-depth "State of Children's Rights" report in Summer 2010. This will give a picture, from an NGO perspective, of the State of Children's Rights in Scotland, as at March 2010. It will look at the progress being made, and obstacles encountered, in progressing the UN's Concluding Observations of 2008. It will also look into the progress being made against the Scottish Government Action Plan, "Do the Right Thing". In producing the report, Together is following the UN reporting guidelines and is consulting with over 30 children's organisations from across Scotland.

- **Amending constitution and governance arrangements to reflect new structure**

Throughout autumn 2009, the Board of Together has been developing appropriate policies and procedures for the smooth-running of the organisation. These have included policies relevant to the new staff, such as health and safety and grievance procedures, alongside more organisational-wide policies, such as child protection, complaints and finance. A rolling programme of updates has been put in place to ensure that each policy is review – and updated if need be – every year.



## **Responsibilities of the Directors**

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as 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 Directors 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

**By order of the Board**

**Kelly Bayes, Director**  
**August 2010**

## **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 30 April 2009, which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

### **Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner**

The directors (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The directors 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**

..... **2010**

**Statement of Financial Activity as at 31st March 2010**

	Unrestricted Funds 2010	Restricted Funds 2010	Total funds 2010	Total funds 2009
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Incoming Resources from generated income:				
Voluntary Income	1,060	62,154	63,214	32,195
Investment Income	22	0	22	76
Other incoming resources	7		7	0
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>62,154</b>	<b>63,243</b>	<b>32,271</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Charitable activities	0	57,593	57,593	30,543
Governance costs	500	0	500	177
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>57,593</b>	<b>58,093</b>	<b>30,720</b>
Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources	589	4,561	5,150	1,551
Transfer between Funds	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds	589	4,561	5,150	1,551
Total Funds @ 31 March 2009	4,589	5,686	10,275	8,724
Total Funds @ 31 March 2010	5,178	10,247	15,425	10,275

Mairi McReynolds FCCA

# Together

Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights

## Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2010

	2010	2009
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>
	0	12
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	0	0
Cash at Bank	<u>16,526</u>	<u>10,263</u>
	16,526	10,263
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<u>1,101</u>	<u>0</u>
	1,101	0
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u>15,425</u>	<u>10,263</u>
	15,425	10,263
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>15,425</u>	<u>10,275</u>
	15,425	10,275
<b>Funds</b>		
Restricted Funds	10,247	5,686
Unrestricted funds	<u>5,178</u>	<u>4,589</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>15,425</u>	<u>10,275</u>
	15,425	10,275

Mairi McReynolds FCCA

For the year ending 31 March 2010 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities;

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

The directors 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.

**Approved on behalf of the Board**

**Kelly Bayes, Director**

..... 2010