

Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring Group (SCRIMG)

Summary Briefing

Tuesday 11th March 2014, Victoria Quay / Attendees: Together, the Scottish Government, SCCYP

1. Matters arising

Widening SCRIMG membership: It was agreed that all members of SCRIMG will continue discussions regarding inviting new members to the group. The proposal to invite a representative from the Child Rights Officers Network will be revisited before the next SCRIMG meeting (to be held in late June 2014).

2. Key themes:

Children & Young People (Scotland) Act

- The Scottish Government confirmed that production of guidance for the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act¹ will take place over summer and formal consultation will take place in autumn 2014. The Scottish Government stated that there will be a template of respecting rights and the UNCRC throughout guidance for the Act.
- The Scottish Government also confirmed that a working group is being established to advise on secondary legislation and guidance linked to the new public body reporting obligations on children's services and children's rights. Together and SCCYP will contribute to developing indicators and guidance.
- Work is underway to establish a group to oversee development of child rights impact assessment guidance (to be finalised by the end of this year) and it was verified that a pilot of the assessment will take place over summer 2014.
- Together raised the possibility of establishing a group to consider the extent to which the UNCRC should be given legislative effect in line with the Stage 3 amendment from Jean Urquhart MSP.² Together and SCCYP will write to Aileen Campbell MSP with regard to her comments on this amendment during Stage 3 and call for a group to be established to unpick and explore legal advice regarding the inclusion of the UNCRC in domestic law in Scotland.

Other opportunities to strengthen implementation of the UNCRC

- *Early Years Collaborative:* Together noted that the Early Years Collaborative presents an opportunity to embed child rights into practice and offered support in helping to take this forward within its agenda.
- *Common Core of Skills:* SCCYP highlighted the potential for the Common Core of Skills to be used in the development of guidance (as above). Together agreed and stated that its members continue to report low awareness of the Common Core.

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill

- Together highlighted the key issues included in its briefing for the Stage 1 debate of the Bill³. The Scottish Government reinstated its commitment to consider raising the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12 within the lifetime of this Parliament, and offered to put Together and SCCYP in touch with relevant Government officials to enable discussions on a further Criminal Justice Bill to move forward with the key issues including age of criminal responsibility and equal protection from assault.

3. Standing item: UNCRC 2014 reporting

- The Scottish Government confirmed that the UK is in the final stages of drafting the UK periodic report to the UN Committee and that key Scottish matters are not reflected in the report as prominently as we would collectively like.

¹ Scottish Government (2014) *Children and Young People (Scotland) Act*

² Scottish Government (2014) *Official Report: 19th February 2014 (27740)*

³ Together (2014) *Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 debate briefing*