

Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring Group (SCRIMG)

Summary Briefing

Tuesday 20th August 2013, Victoria Quay / Attendees: Together, the Scottish Government, SCCYP

1. Matters arising

- *Review of the SCRIMG Terms of Reference:* Attendees reflected on the effectiveness of SCRIMG and agreed that invitations would be sent to a wide group of people with mixed expertise (across the Scottish Government, the GIRFEC programme board and public bodies) to participate in meetings, helping to extend the rights agenda and the usefulness of SCRIMG. Invitations will be sent before the next meeting.
- *Common Core of Skills:* Together asked how the Common Core of Skillsⁱ was being used to develop guidance for the Children and Young People Bill. Together urged that this 'positive and useful document' should be referenced where possible.

2. Key theme: Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill

- Together raised concern that a consideration to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland is absent from the Bill. The Government confirmed that another piece of justice legislation will be introduced to the Scottish Parliament before May 2016 and that their commitment remains to re-consider the age of criminal responsibility before then. SCRIMG will receive feedback on this at the next meeting.

3. Standing item: UNCRC 2014 reporting

- The Scottish Government has a meeting with the UK Government on 24th September where a process of negotiation will take place. There will be the opportunity for further stakeholder engagement later this year through a condensed consultation on the combined UK UNCRC report. SCRIMG will be given advance notification of these dates.
- The Scottish submission to the UK Government Report to the UN Committee was submitted in June 2013.ⁱⁱ In this report, the Scottish Government stated that they "*engaged with 120 individuals through seminars held by Together*" which Together said was misleading. The lack of feedback from Together's seminars in this report will be addressed in Together's 2013 State of Children's Rights Report, which will be released in November.
- The report commissioned by the Scottish Government "*Children's experiences of, and views on, issues relating to the implementation of the UNCRC*" was welcomed. Various teams in Government will follow up the gaps identified in the report. There will be an item at the following SCRIMG meeting to address this.

4. Standing item: Children and Young People Bill

- Together asked what stage the Scottish Government is at with regards to developing guidance and what opportunities there would be for the children's sector to help develop it. The Child Rights Impact Assessment model is being developed and an initial model will be shared with SCRIMG members, before the Family Law team performs a pilot.
- With regards to raising knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC, it was suggested that the Welsh implementation scheme could be used as an initial reference. Education Scotland's professional development training package was referred to as a potential complementary initial point of reference.
- The Scottish Government stated that there is a draft outcomes framework for public bodies which will form part of the guidance but this is still in its infancy, and Together offered support to develop this framework.

ⁱ Scottish Government (2012). 'Common Core of Skills, Knowledge & Understanding and Values for the "Children's Workforce" in Scotland.' <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00395179.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Scottish Government (2013). The 5th UK Government Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: Scottish Government Submission. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00426765.pdf>