

Terms of Reference

UNCRC Implementation Strategy Group



Date drafted: 21st July 2021

Date agreed: 17.08.2021

Role of Implementation Strategy Group

The Implementation Strategy Group is a forum through which Together members can work to support and scrutinise the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) with a particular focus on the duties enshrined in the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. The group will provide support for Together, and will inform our contributions to the Scottish Government's Strategic Implementation Board. The Implementation Strategy Group will also act as a hub of expertise for the Scottish Government on how to drive forward implementation.

Work themes of the Implementation Strategy Group may include:

- A “**campaign hub**” to coordinate advocacy that supports Together’s vision of “all children and young people in Scotland having their human rights respected, protected and fulfilled”
- **Informing and scrutinising** the work of the Strategic Implementation Board
- **Co-ordination and support for Together members’ work with children and young people** in relation to UNCRC implementation
- **Sharing resources, best practice and approaches** between Together members and from Together’s partnerships at a UN, European and UK level.
- **Networking** among Together members

Links to Strategic Plan

The work of the Implementation Strategy Group will embed and promote the following Together values:

- **Courageous:** We are independent and we challenge when we need to. We always stand up for children’s human rights.
- **Collaborative:** We involve, engage and consult our members, children and young people and the government. We are representative, open and transparent in all we do.
- **Constructive:** We do things in a respectful way. We support our staff, interns and children and young people to reach their potential.
- **Inclusive:** We enable everyone to participate equally, especially children and young people.

It will be furthering the following Together strategic aims:

- Law and policy in Scotland is fully implemented in line with the UNCRC and other international human rights standards
- Children and young people’s voices are listened to, respected and influence the world around them.
- Scotland is recognised internationally as a pioneer and an innovator in taking forward children and young people’s human rights.
- Our impact and reach continues to grow, and we develop as a sustainably funded organisation.

Membership

Membership is open to any organisational member of Together.

Secretariat

Meetings will be chaired by Together's Director. Secretariat duties will be fulfilled by Together with minutes and actions recorded by the Membership Outreach Assistant.

Decision Making Processes

All decisions made by the Implementation Strategy Group must be in line with Together's values, and decisions will be reached through collaborative and collective leadership where at all possible. This does not prevent individual members from expressing alternative views if they differ from the decisions reached by the Implementation Strategy Group.

Attendance and Frequency of Meetings

Members from the Together staff team will be in attendance at every meeting. The Implementation Strategy Group will meet approximately every 6 weeks.

Meeting Papers

Together will aim to send any relevant papers one week in advance to give members an opportunity to bring forward any agenda items that may be relevant to the meeting. Papers may be shared with less notice in exceptional circumstances. Together will establish a secure file sharing space to share papers with members, including minutes of the meetings.

Subgroups and Task Groups

Subgroups will be set up to explore specific areas of UNCRC implementation in more detail.

Subgroups will include a limited number of members nominated by the broader Implementation Strategy Group on the basis of their experience and expertise. Subgroups will be ongoing and have their own Terms of Reference. The current subgroup (as at July 2021) is:

- Participation Subgroup

Further subgroups may be set up with the agreement of members of the Implementation Strategy Group.

Task groups are for time limited discussions on specific areas of UNCRC implementation. Any Implementation Strategy Group member can choose to become a member of a Task group when it addresses an area of interest and/or expertise. Task groups will operate informally with no Terms of Reference. Current task groups (as at July 2021) are:

- Advocacy and access to justice
- Children whose rights are most at risk.

Further task groups may be set up with the agreement of members of the Implementation Strategy Group.

Amending Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference may be amended following consultation and agreement with members.