

Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring Group (SCRIMG)

Summary Briefing

Tuesday 8th November 2016, Victoria Quay / Attendees: Together, the Scottish Government, CYPCS

1. Matters arising

- CYPCS enquired as to whether more details on the care system review recently announced by the First Minister during a party conference were available. No more information is yet known.

2. Key themes

Concluding Observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

- Together discussed their upcoming Parliamentary reception which will be held in Scottish Parliament on 16th November. This will involve a preview of their State of Children's Rights report and the report will be officially launched the following day. The report provides a baseline of where Scotland is regarding the Concluding Observations and it can also be used to inform CRWIAs. It translates the Concluding Observations into manageable Scotland-specific recommendations affecting every-day lives and, where possible, are informed by children and young people.
- Together and CYPCS stated that they were prepared to support SG in taking recommendations forward within various SG departments and highlighted the importance of mainstreaming of children's rights throughout all government directorates.
- SG will convene an engagement event in January which aims to take forward action on the Concluding Observations and *State of Children's Rights* report by including SG and key stakeholders.
- Together enquired about the possibility of a Scottish Government Children's Rights Action Plan through which the recommendations would be taken forward. The January engagement event will inform whether this is the appropriate way forward and how such a Plan would be structured.

Review of UNCRC Monitoring Structures

- Any actions related to this section of the agenda will be carried out only after Together's 2017 SUII seminar series as this will include engagement with key stakeholders on related issues.

Visit of Special Rapporteur of toxins to Scotland in January

- The Special Rapporteur of toxins will visit Scotland during their visit to the UK, from January 20th-23rd. CYPCS will be involved in the visit, as will the Scottish Human Rights Commission and members of SG. CYPCS will ensure a children's rights context is presented during the visit.

3. AOB

- Together, Children's Parliament and SYP have submitted a joint funding application to the CYPEIF project fund to facilitate the inclusion of children and young people in decision-making and UNCRC monitoring structures. The results will be known in December.
- Together enquired as to whether the CRWIA website will be updated with further templates to ensure transparency and scrutiny of CRWIA's that have been undertaken. SG stated they intend to revisit CRWIA guidance to ensure it is clearer and easier to understand.
- Together noted the positive progress in the decision by SG not to create a new Police Power to stop and search children for alcohol and also on its decision consult on the rights of young people to opt out of religious observance in schools following the legal challenge by the Humanist Society.
- Together emphasised the importance of children of all ages being involved in the consultation on information-sharing that has been outlined by SG in its update paper.

4. Standing Items

- Together reiterated the value that would be placed on SG if support for Optional Protocol 3 of the UNCRC was clearly stated and how it would help to distinguish Scotland's commitment to children's rights. There has been no change in SG's position on the issue.