

Scottish Child Rights Implementation Monitoring Group

Background

Traditionally the cycle of UNCRC monitoring is based around the writing and submission of a Government's report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the writing and submission of reports by non-government organisations, pre-sessional working groups and a plenary session, resulting in the publication of the Committee's concluding observations and the Government's response to them in the form of an action plan or a similar document.

This approach currently leaves a gap whereby the monitoring of the implementation of children's rights in Scotland is lacking a continuous and ongoing process thus potentially leading to some areas of implementation lagging behind, which could go unnoticed until the next reporting cycle starts. To address this, the Scottish Government, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and Together have agreed to set up a Scottish Child Rights Implementation Monitoring Group, which will be guided by the following:

Terms of Reference

Led by a common desire to see children's rights more fully realised and embedded in Scottish society and communities across Scotland, guided by their respective obligations related to the implementation and promotion of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to monitoring the process of implementation, the Scottish Government, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and Together have agreed to meet at least three times a year. The aim of these meetings will be to monitor progress on children's rights across Scotland around implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.. The main reference documents will be: The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations 2008, The Scottish Government's response to the 2008 Concluding Observations 'Do the Right Thing'; The joint UK Commissioners' report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child; Together 'State of Children's Rights Report' and relevant recommendations arising from other international human rights reporting mechanisms including the Universal Periodic Review.

The main purposes of these meetings will be:

1. to share and discuss relevant statistical information and reports;
2. to discuss and, where possible, to reach common understanding on progress made at a central and local level and remaining gaps in implementation;
3. to discuss and highlight emerging issues and, where possible, agree approaches and actions to address them;
4. to discuss specific thematic areas related to children's rights. Each meeting will cover a specific theme, directly relating to the UNCRC reporting mechanism as follows:
 - General measures of implementation and General Principles
 - Civil rights and freedoms
 - Family environment and alternative care

- Basic health and welfare
- Education, leisure and cultural activities
- Special protection measures.

This forum does not seek to preclude the holding of any other meetings between the three parties necessary for the realisation of their objectives related to monitoring the implementation of children's rights.

Attendance

The meetings will be convened by joint agreement and attended by:

- 2 representatives from Together, one being the Chair or their designated Officer;
- 2 representatives from Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, one being the Commissioner or his nominated representative;
- 2 representatives from the Scottish Government, one being a Senior Official with responsibility for Children's Rights or their nominated representative.

Other representatives of the three parties will attend the meetings upon invitation from the group.

Chair

The chair of the group will be a representative of SCCYP or Together, as agreed on an annual basis.

Secretarial arrangements

Secretarial support for the meetings will be provided by SCCYP. This will be reviewed on an annual basis. Administrative arrangements relating to the meeting will be as follows:

- documents due to be discussed at the meetings will be sent out to participants at least four weeks prior to each meeting;
- a draft summary of each meeting – including specific actions - will be produced after each meeting. This will be sent to participants for comments no later than two weeks after each meeting;
- the summary will be approved by participants no later than four weeks after each meeting;
- the summary notes of the meeting are only to be made public after approval by the group.

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