



## **Together**

Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights  
(limited by Guarantee)

### **Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Registered charity number: SC029403  
Registered company number: SC199725

Registered Office:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Prospect House  
5 Thistle Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 1DF

[www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk)

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## Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)

Charity Registration Number: SC029403

Company Number: SC199725

Registered Office: Prospect House  
5 Thistle Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 1DF

Telephone: 0131 225 8864

Email: [info@togetherscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@togetherscotland.org.uk)

Website: [www.togetherscotland.org.uk](http://www.togetherscotland.org.uk)

Directors: Chair: Kelly Bayes  
Treasurer: Douglas Hamilton

Board Members: Alex Cole-Hamilton  
Brian Donnelly  
Susan Elsley  
Gordon Frew  
Stephen McGinley  
Colin Morrison  
Elizabeth Morrison  
Zoe Picton-Howell

Company Secretary: Juliet Harris

Bankers: Bank of Scotland  
20/22 Shandwick Place  
Edinburgh EH2 4RN

Independent Examiner: Mairi McReynolds FCCA  
Barnardo's  
235 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh EH12 7AR

## **Report of the Directors 2010-11**

The Directors submit their Report and the Financial Statements for the period ended 31st March 2011.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Charity was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 8th September 1999, to further the education of the community on rights of children and young people as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Donations have been received throughout the year from organisations and private individuals. The Charity's affairs are managed by regular meetings of the Directors of the Company. Through 2010-11, the day to day activities of Together were carried out by a full time National Development Officer and part-time Administrator and supervised by the Directors.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Directors are elected or re-elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. The number of Directors shall not exceed 10 persons. All Directors are appointed for an initial 3 year term after which they can be re-elected for a further 3 years.

The Directors hold regular board meetings and monitor the financial situation of the Charity closely.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the Directors to ensure that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should be available to cover 3 months of the resources expended. If funds were to drop significantly below this level, the Directors would consider replacement funding, or reconsider the charity's activities.

### **Risk Review**

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

## Review of Activities

As outlined in the Together Business Plan for 2009-2012, the charity has been working to fulfil three main aims:

- Promotion of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Scotland
- Monitoring of UNCRC implementation in Scotland
- NGO reporting to the UN Monitoring Committee, next scheduled for 2014

Funding secured from the Scottish Government Children's Rights Team for 2009 – 2011 enabled Together to continue to employ a National Development Officer and part-time Administrator to take forward these aims. Key events in the year are as follows:

- **Increasing membership from both local and national agencies**

Together has continued to promote membership at every opportunity. In the last year, Together increased its number of members and supporters from 68 to 152. This includes 80 children's organisations, 19 statutory bodies, 8 schools and 45 individuals with an interest in children's rights. Throughout 2009, the National Development Officer consulted with members and non-member children's organisations to see how they could get more involved in the promotion and monitoring of the UNCRC in Scotland.

- **Producing e-newsletters for members**

Together's fortnightly e-newsletter has proved a success with members and supporters and now has over 751 subscribers. News, resources, information and events, all with a child rights focus, are submitted by children's organisations across Scotland and occasionally internationally. The most well-read articles tend to be Scottish-specific training materials, resources or consultations on rights-based issues.

- **Launching a new website and online resource library**

Together's website was launched in May 2010. It includes an online resource library which contains a wide range of research, training materials, latest news and best practice on children's rights. Additional features include a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page to address the key questions put to Together by its members, a children's rights quiz and a directory of Together members. It has attracted an increasing number of visitors throughout the year and now receives approximately 170 visitors each week, of which 50% of visitors are new.

- **Publishing our first national annual monitoring report**

In September 2010, Together launched its first *State of Children's Rights* report following wide consultation with 54 children's organisations across Scotland. The report was welcomed by Scottish Government, with Adam Ingram MSP, Minister for Children and Families, speaking at the launch event. The aim of the report is to provide a non-governmental perspective on the extent to which policy and practice in Scotland has progressed since the launch of the Scottish Government UNCRC action plan, *Do the Right Thing*. It provides a means through which Scottish Government progress

can be monitored and evaluated, ensuring that the momentum gained through the 2008 UNCRC reporting round is not lost.

The key priorities raised in *the State of Children Rights (2010)* report are:

- Bringing all legislation in line with the UNCRC through its incorporation into Scots and UK law;
- Properly resourcing the actions identified in *Do the Right Thing* to ensure Scottish Government's good intentions are turned into realities;
- Focusing attention on particularly vulnerable groups of children to ensure that any forthcoming funding cuts do not impact of them disproportionately.

Together attends a three-way meeting in which SCCYP and Together monitor Scottish Government's progress in implementing the UNCRC. *The State of Children's Rights (2010)* report plays a key role in this meeting with its recommendations helping to set the agenda for discussion.

- **Hosting five Winter Seminars**

In place of setting up regional networks, Together held a series of regional seminars. Together held five *State of Children's Rights* seminars across Scotland between January and March 2011. The aims of the seminars were to:

- Raise awareness of the UNCRC amongst professionals working with children and young people;
- Share learning and experience gained from Together's *State of Children's Rights (2010)* report;
- Develop contacts and expertise to take forward recommendations from the report;
- Build up regional contacts and expertise to identify key child rights issues for Together to focus on in 2011-12.

The seminars were held in Inverness, Ayr, Aberdeen, the Borders and Edinburgh. Each area was selected on the basis that very few of the local children's organisations contributed to the 2010 *State of Children's Rights* report or were members of Together. As a result, Together had very little prior knowledge of local issues relating to the implementation of the UNCRC.

The seminars were targeted at all professions working for or with children in the voluntary sector and in local and national governmental/statutory bodies. In total, 252 delegates from across the children's sector attended and were involved in a day of lively discussion and debate. Delegates were primarily from local voluntary organisations (25% of delegates) with representation from national voluntary organisations (23%) local authorities (39%), of which 19% worked in education. Evaluations were extremely positive with:

- 98% delegates rating the seminars as 'excellent' or 'good'
- 83% delegates rating the learning from the seminar as being 'extremely' or 'very' relevant to their job

The seminars focussed on the implementation of the UNCRC in each area, drawing on the findings and recommendations of Together's *State of Children's Rights Report (2010)*. The events took place in the context of the current financial climate in which many children's organisations are faced with cutting or making significant changes to the services they provide.

The seminar provided a forum for professionals to discuss policy and services at a local and national level from a child rights perspective. The discussions that took place will play an important part in the development of the *State of Children's Rights* report for 2011 and in making recommendations to improve the implementation of the UNCRC across Scotland.

- **Contributing to events, seminars, working groups and research**

Together participated in a number of research projects throughout the year, including the Centre for Rural Childhood's action research into Article 12 and the Equality and Human Rights Commission Specialist Consultation on developing a Human Rights Measurement Framework.

To raise awareness and understanding of the UNCRC among professionals working with children, Together held workshops and seminars and made presentations at a number of events. These included hosting seminars at the *respectme* and Scottish Out of School Care Network annual conferences, presenting at a Karibu members' meeting and facilitating a working group at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions NGO Forum.

Together also contributed to a number of forums and steering groups, providing a child rights-based focus to Children are Unbeatable and for Scotland's Disabled Children, and giving a Scotland perspective to the advisory panel of UNICEF's child friendly communities project and the steering group of the Rights of the Child UK coalition.

- **Maintaining a functional governance structure**

The ten Directors who appointed to the Board of Together in September 2009 remained as Directors throughout 2010-11. Directors bring a range of skills and expertise ranging from academics to child rights officers and directors of national NGOs. Board meetings are held every two months, and subgroups have been established when needed to help focus expertise on certain issues. Together has a ongoing Finance Subgroup to monitor finance and fundraising and will be setting up a Strategy Subgroup in 2011-12 to advise the Board on business planning and broader strategic issues.

Throughout the year, staff and the Together Board have continued to draft and revise organisational policies and procedures to ensure best practice in the day-to-day and overall governance of the charity are followed. New policies introduced throughout the year include a data protection and privacy policy (introduced to complement the launch of the website) and a complaints policy.

## **Responsibilities of the Directors**

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Directors should follow best practice and to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Basis of accounting**

For the year ending 31 March 2011 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

### **By order of the Board**

**Kelly Bayes, Director**  
**September 2011**

## **Independent examiner's report to the Board of the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, which are set out on pages 11 and 12.

### **Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner**

The directors (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) or under Regulation 10 (1)(a) to (c) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is required by company law to prepare accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified Chartered Certified Accountant.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act) and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006, section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
  - which are consistent with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Mairi McReynolds FCCA**

**September 2011**

**Statement of Financial Activity as at 31st March 2011**

	Unrestricted Funds 2011	Restricted Funds 2011	Total funds 2011	Total funds 2010
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Incoming Resources from generated income:				
Voluntary Income	990	72,794	73,784	63,214
Investment Income	0	0	0	22
Other incoming resources	65	0	65	7
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>72,794</b>	<b>73,849</b>	<b>63,243</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Charitable activities	0	81,865	81,865	57,593
Governance costs	0	0	0	500
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81,865</b>	<b>81,865</b>	<b>58,093</b>
Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources	1,055	(9,071)	(8,016)	5,150
Transfer between Funds	0	0	0	0
Net Movement in Funds	1,055	(9,071)	(8,016)	5,150
Total Funds @ 31 March 2010	5,178	10,247	15,425	10,275
Total Funds @ 31 March 2011	6,233	1,176	7,409	15,425

Mairi McReynolds FCCA

**Notes:**

No remuneration was paid to Directors during the year.

Expenses totalling £263.85 were paid to two Directors were paid during the year.

# Together

*Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights*

## Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2011

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	0	0
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	70	0
Cash at Bank	<u>7,354</u>	<u>16,526</u>
	7,424	16,526
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<u>15</u>	<u>1,101</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u>7,409</u>	<u>15,425</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u><b>7,409</b></u>	<u><b>15,425</b></u>
<b>Funds</b>		
Restricted Funds	1,176	10,247
Unrestricted funds	<u>6,233</u>	<u>5,178</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u><b>7,409</b></u>	<u><b>15,425</b></u>

Mairi McReynolds FCCA