

Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring Group (SCRIMG)

Summary Briefing

Friday 19th December 2014, Victoria Quay / Attendees: Together, the Scottish Government, SCCYP

1. Matters arising

- Together outlined a proposal to establish a SCRIMG coordination group to reflect the scope of duties included in parts 1 & 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (CYP Act). This would work alongside the existing monitoring group. In addition, it was proposed that a Ministerial Advisory Group on Children's Rights be established to provide strategic oversight, raise awareness and understanding of the UNCRC across government departments and support the implementation of the CYP Act. To explore this proposal further, it was agreed that that updating the Terms of Reference must be matter of priority. This is particularly important given the upcoming commencement of Part 1 duties and the next UK UNCRC periodic review.

2. Key themes

Children & Young People (Scotland) Act

- The Scottish Government confirmed that the contract to develop a Scottish Government Child Impact Assessment model has been awarded and that there will be 8 weeks allocated to its development and trial. Further trialling would take place before being rolled out across government. Together and SCCYP stated that a Child Rights Impact Assessment model should be used on all the guidance for the CYP Act.
- Together asked what the Scottish Government is doing to prepare for the commencement of the Part 1 duty for Ministers to raise awareness and understanding of children's rights and take into account children's views. Scottish Government stated that there were a number of possible avenues that would be explored.
- SCCYP raised that February/March will place many demands on the children's sector. Multiple sets of guidance for the CYP Act are being released in close succession. Spacing out consultation deadlines strategically to allow more time to comment would be welcomed.

Children's involvement in UNCRC reporting

- Together and SCCYP stressed the importance of ensuring that any work undertaken to consult with children and young people is strategically focussed on meeting duties under the CYP Act, and on addressing the gaps identified in the Scottish Government's '*Children and young people's experiences of, and views on, issues relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*' report.

Together State of Children's Rights report 2014 – key themes

- Together outlined three key themes of the 2014 report: access to justice, awareness and understanding of children's rights and children's participation in matters affecting them. The Scottish Government confirmed that the report was being circulated to government officials.

Gypsy/Traveller Strategy and Action Plan

- The Scottish Government offered to timetable a meeting to discuss the Gypsy/Traveller Strategy and Action Plan and suggested that they are likely to be published in summer 2015.

3. Standing items: UNCRC 2014 reporting and Optional Protocol 3 to the UNCRC

- SCCYP reported that there will be a UK Commissioners submission to the UN Committee ready by April 2015.
- Together is working with organisations across the UK to submit an NGO Great Britain report; Northern Ireland will be submitting a separate report to the UN Committee. Together organise seminars to gather evidence, help to address gaps and highlight areas where there is little data. This will inform a Scotland report to be produced by Together in May 2015, which will inform the GB report to the UN Committee in July.
- Together and SCCYP will be working together to ensure that information and data is shared.
- The Scottish Government confirmed that there was currently no intention to push the UK government to sign up to Optional Protocol 3 of the UNCRC.