

Scottish Children's Rights Implementation Monitoring Group (SCRIMG)

Summary Briefing

Tuesday 2nd September 2014, Victoria Quay / Attendees: Together, the Scottish Government, SCCYP

1. Matters arising

- The SCRIMG Terms of Reference should be revised to become more outcomes-based. SCRIMG could benefit from a larger group with wider ownership to promote implementation of children's rights running alongside; an idea which will be discussed further and followed-up at the next meeting.
- Together requested an update from the Scottish Government on their report to the Equalities Committee on its Gypsy/Traveller recommendations. The Government confirmed that an overarching Strategy and Action Plan is being produced by the Equalities Team and that an update/further details will be offered at the next meeting.

2. Key themes

Children & Young People (Scotland) Act

- The Scottish Government has committed to publishing a timeline for the development and publication of Children and Young People Act guidance.
- The Scottish Government will consider how SCRIMG can help to communicate how the Act will be implemented and will report on this at the next meeting.
- The Scottish Government confirmed that the planned 'go live' date for a new Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) to support the Ministerial Duty is April 2015. The production of the CRIA model is likely to be completed by a consultant.
- Together raised concern about the length of time it may take before the first reports are produced by public bodies as a result of the duty in Part 1 of the Act. The Scottish Government confirmed that the Part 1-3 guidance group is looking at how the 3-yearly reports required in Part 1 can be integrated with the yearly reports required in Part 3 where possible.
- The GIRFEC guidance group is finalising the draft statutory guidance (to include named person, lead professional and information sharing) which is due to be published for public consultation in January-March 2015. The final statutory guidance will be published in June 2015. Practical materials will be developed to sit alongside the statutory guidance.

Other opportunities to strengthen implementation of the UNCRC

- *Early Years Collaborative (EYC)*: Together re-emphasised the potential of the EYC as an opportunity to promote children's rights and the new duties in the Children and Young People Act. The Scottish Government (including the Minister for Children and Young People) will be involved in the next Early Years Collaborative learning session and will keep SCRIMG updated of any opportunity to be involved.
- *Common Core of Skills*: Together underlined the positive feedback received from its members regarding the Common Core document yet the lack of awareness of this resource. The Scottish Government agreed that it could be used to inform the development of guidance for the Children and Young People Act and will inform SCRIMG of this development.

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill

- The Scottish Government confirmed that there has been ongoing discussion regarding the commitment to raise the age of criminal responsibility. A discussion paper will soon be circulated to SCRIMG. The Government will help to arrange for SCCYP and Together to meet with justice officials regarding this issue and current/forthcoming criminal justice legislation.

3. Standing item: UNCRC 2014 reporting

- SCCYP has responded to the UK 5th Periodic report to the UN Committee and Together will respond through its 2014 State of Children's Rights report. The Scottish Government stated that they will push for a UK update report nearer to the time that the UK review is likely to take place (2016/17).