

Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

Our work in
2016-17

Children in Scotland works to improve the life of every child in Scotland. We do this by working closely with our members and partners on projects in schools, communities, early years settings and in health. We also provide a national voice for all in the children's sector to influence change and improvement in our legislation, policy and practices at national and local levels.

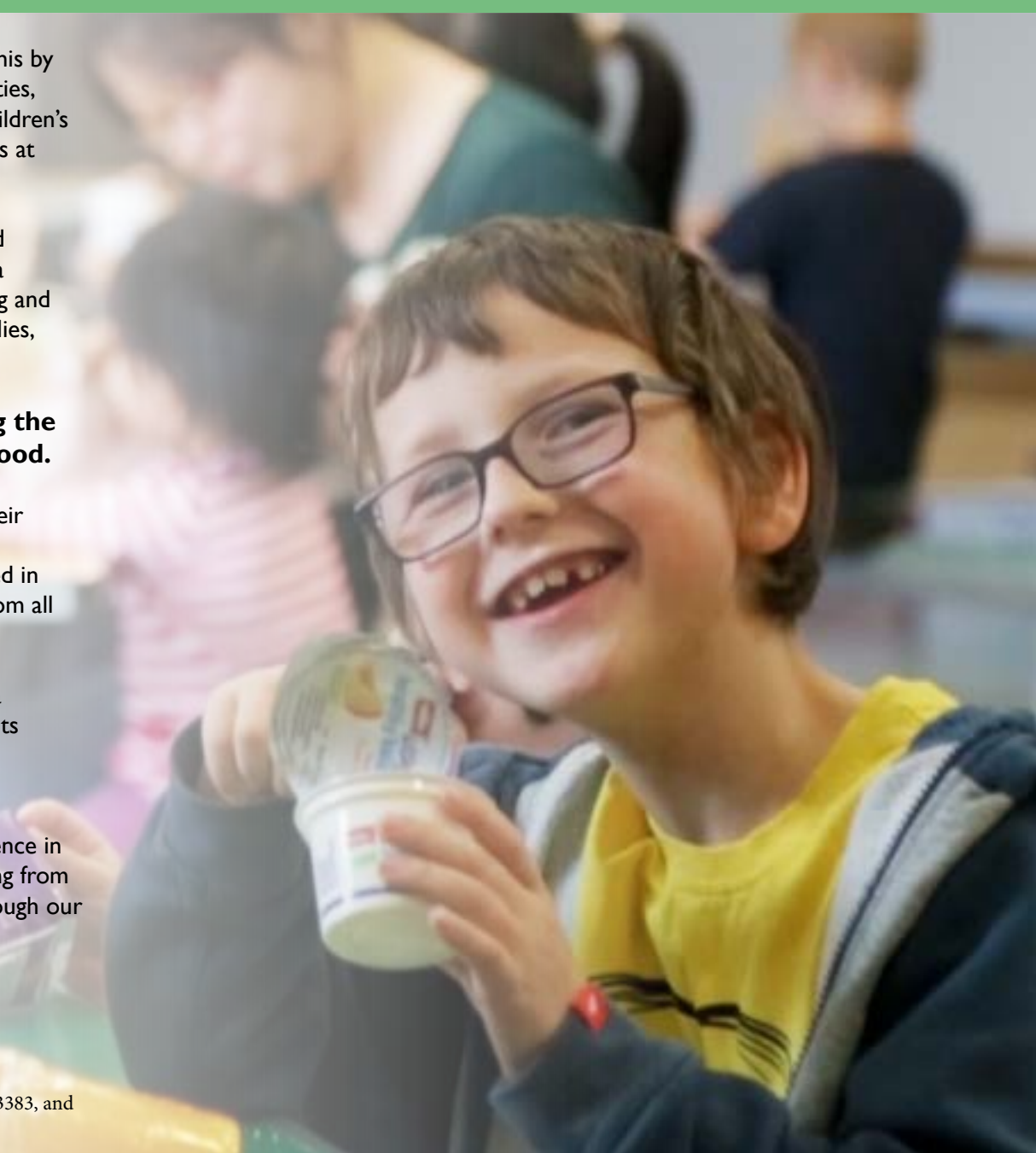
We are privileged to work with more than 500 children's sector organisations and individuals in our membership. With this broad reach, Children in Scotland fulfills a fully independent role of intermediary, facilitating engagement, partnership, learning and communication with and among policymakers, practitioners and children and families, united by our shared ambition to improve children's lives in Scotland.

Our vision is that Scotland will become a world leader in securing the wellbeing of every child and improving the quality of every childhood.

We believe that strengthening the voice and role of children, young people and their families must be at the heart of achieving our vision. They must help to shape the provision, planning and delivery of services and policy development and be involved in assessing the impact this achieves on the improvement of services and support from all providers.

Our sector-wide membership gives Children in Scotland the opportunity to play a valuable and impartial role in supporting the children's sector to unite, improving its effectiveness in working towards this aspiration.

The children's sector landscape is large and complex. Children in Scotland aims to support its members to navigate it effectively and to strengthen the sector's influence in all areas that impact on childhoods and families. We facilitate sharing of the learning from the broad range of approaches across Scotland, the UK and Europe, primarily through our project work and stakeholder engagement.



Project highlights

Creating systemic change from the ground up

Fighting food poverty

Our Food, Families, Futures (FFF) project was launched in response to the severe difficulties that some families face during the holiday periods when free school meal entitlement ends.

Two schools in Ibrox and Dalmarnock, Glasgow, which normally lie empty outwith term-time, worked with local partners to deliver holiday clubs where 140 local children had fun and good food during the summer of 2016. Interest exceeded capacity by up to 60% and the project will run again during the summer of 2017 in more schools.

Two holiday clubs also ran during October 2016 in East Perthshire (Ratray and Coupar Angus) and Irvine Royal Academy ran breakfast and after school activities involving sports and food for the full academic year.

We would like to thank all of the partners who made this work possible – UK catering and food supplier Brakes, STV Hunter, the People's Postcode Lottery, Gannochy Trust, and Business in the Community Scotland, as well as Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life, PEEK, Thriving Places, the North East Health Improvement team, the Asda Foundation, and Northumbria University for its evaluation of the project's impact on children's education and wellbeing (the first evaluation report is due in summer 2017).



"The Food, Families, Futures model enables schools to do what they do best – be the absolute heart of their communities and, by joining forces with partners from the private, public and third sectors, respond to local need."

Jackie Brock

*Our projects engaged with
72 parents and carers*

CHANGE: Childcare and Nurture, Glasgow East (2016-19)

We are privileged to have begun working directly with local communities in Shettleston and Calton to create sustainable early years, after-school and holiday childcare provision that is responsive to the needs of local families and the local area.

With partners Glasgow City Council and the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH), and funding from the Big Lottery, we aim to create a model that can be adapted and applied in other communities across Scotland where affordable, accessible childcare currently falls short.



*We had an additional
2,852 Twitter followers -
a 31% increase since
2015-16*

*ISMD thunderclap reached
2,518,185 social media
users worldwide*

International School Meals Day (ISMD) 2017

Thursday, 9 March 2017 was the fifth annual ISMD. The theme for this year, which saw resources, recipes and good practice being shared between 30 countries worldwide, was food culture and heritage. The day saw direct engagement online with more than 2.5 million people.

ISMD is managed by Children in Scotland, with support in the UK, US and across the world.



*Food, Families, Futures film
received 394 views*

Making Space 2016 – international award for excellence and innovation in the design of spaces for children and young people

The physical environment has huge power to inspire, motivate and influence overall wellbeing and so the design of spaces and places for children and young people carries huge responsibility. Entries for Making Space 2016 came in from all over the world. They were judged by a panel of architecture professionals and young people supported by Stone Opera, an architecture company specialising in participative work with children.

- **Health category:** Camden Active Spaces, London (Wayward, Erect Architecture and LUC)
- **Home category:** The Ramp House, Portobello, Edinburgh (Chambers McMillan Architects)
- **Learning category:** Soyoo Joyful Growth Centre, Beijing (Crossboundaries)
- **Play category:** Adventure Cove @ Culzean Castle, Ayrshire (Cap.Co)
- **Our space (voted for by members of the public):** The Muirhouse Avenue Play Space and Tyre Amphitheatre (Centipede Project), a community collaboration between The Old Kirk & St Andrews Church with North Edinburgh Arts.

The winners all demonstrated excellence in their categories, exploring collaborative design, spaces that work for communities, and how to engage young people meaningfully with the design and planning process.

Making Space 2016 was part of the Festival of Architecture 2016 and supported by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), Architecture and Design Scotland, the Scottish Government, the Scottish Futures Trust, and Taylor Wimpey.

National programme of childcare trials

Our Chief Executive, Jackie Brock, and Kenny Forsyth, Children in Scotland associate, have been appointed by the Scottish Government to work as part of a team supporting 14 early learning and childcare trials.

From November 2016, the team are working with a range of delivery models including: extended days and holiday cover, 'Stay and Play' for two-year-olds, making additional hours available through local childminders as part of a blended approach, and improved access to outdoor learning.

Other project work

Our team at Children in Scotland has also been working with the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) to **evaluate the Diana Children's Nurses Service (DCN)**, and continues to work with communities in Perth and Kinross and in Moray to co-produce community hubs of information on **Self-directed Support**. Work also continued for **Alternative Futures**, a project commissioned by the European Commission, which aims to improve the lives and life chances of young people who have experienced violence.



Entries for Making Space 2016 were received from countries including China, New Zealand, Poland and France.

Making Space 2016 Awards Ceremony was held in Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall.

An exhibition of the Making Space 2016 shortlisted entries and winners showcased at The Lighthouse until 30 March 2017.



National programme of childcare trials is covering 14 Scottish local authorities

Children in Scotland YouTube channel received almost 2,400 views

Influencing policy and legislation

We push and challenge government to make bold decisions that are in the best interests of children and young people

In May 2016, we published our **five-year Manifesto** setting out three key areas where we believe change is required over the lifetime of the next parliament. Our calls focused on: championing participation and engagement; prioritising early intervention and prevention; and removing inequalities and combating inequality.

All of our influencing work in 2016-17 has sought to bring about change that will provide the best chance of our manifesto calls being achieved.

Read about our participation and engagement work, advocating for the right of children and young people to shape policy and legislation in all areas that affect them on page 6.

Challenging child poverty

As a member of the End Child Poverty Coalition, Children in Scotland has worked with partners to strengthen the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill both before and after its introduction in February 2017. Following the UK Government's decision to scrap the Child Poverty Act, this Bill sets out specific targets for reducing child poverty in Scotland by 2030. It represents one of the most significant policy developments for children and young people in Scotland during the 2016-17 period. Our calls include:

- Introduction of interim targets to measure progress towards the 2030 target
- Involvement of children and young people in scrutiny of the bill and production of delivery plans
- Local progress reports to be used for forward planning rather than just retrospective reporting.

Children in Scotland also responded to the Scottish Government's November consultation on social security in Scotland asking for an increase in Child Benefit by £5 per week, a move which could reduce child poverty rates by 14% according to independent analysis.

'As the fifth largest economy in the world, is 350 child refugees really the best that we can do?' - Children in Scotland and partners unite in call to reverse decision on Dubs scheme

With partners Children in Northern Ireland, Children in Wales and Children England, we condemned the UK Government's decision, in February 2016, to end the 'Dubs' scheme for refugee and asylum-seeking children. Our call for the UK Government to "welcome a fair and proportionate share of those who are fleeing persecution and war" received media coverage.



22 consultation responses submitted

130 participants in our free policy events

36 weekly parliamentary monitoring updates produced

New Children's Sector Strategic & Policy Forum established

400 mental health and attainment booklets distributed at spring party conferences

184 members of the Children and Young People Cross-Party Group

163 media mentions

Opinion articles in
 Third Force News, Times
 Education Supplement
 Scotland, The Herald,
 Teaching Scotland, and
 Huffington Post.

“Wherever the negotiations lead us, it is children and young people who have the greatest stake in our countries’ future. Children are not future citizens, they are citizens now... It is time for politicians of all parties to unite around a common moral purpose of ending child poverty. Only then will we build truly inclusive societies where everybody has an equal opportunity to fulfill their potential.”

*In response to the EU
 Referendum result*

“The Scottish Government must be bold in its actions and innovative in its approach if the [new social security] powers that are about to be delivered are to be used to the benefit of those who need it most.”

Jackie Brock

Combatting inequality through high quality, affordable and flexible childcare

In January 2017, Children in Scotland set out practical recommendations for expanding early learning and childcare in Scotland whilst maintaining a commitment to developing and sustaining high quality. It is an approach that, when delivered as part of a wider, supportive social policy framework, can make a powerful contribution to combatting inequality in Scotland.



Intervening early for child and adolescent mental health

The Scottish Government responded to our call for a dedicated Minister for Mental Health, appointing Maureen Watt as Minister for Mental Health following the 2016 Holyrood Elections.

In our response to the Scottish Government’s draft strategy *Mental Health in Scotland – a 10 year vision* (December 2016), Children in Scotland said the focus of the strategy must extend far beyond traditional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as “a huge amount of prevention and support work is carried out by professionals who are not mental health specialists, such as teachers, school nurses, health visitors and youth workers”. These professionals are interacting with children and young people day-to-day, building relationships, and are best placed to spot issues early on as they develop.



The impact of Brexit on children and young people

Before UK voters went to the polls on 23 June 2016, Children in Scotland and YouthLink Scotland convened a meeting of the Cross-Party Group for Children and Young People to explore the impact of EU membership on children and young people.

Following the outcome of the referendum, we have continued to build up partnerships and press for child rights to be placed at the heart of the negotiation process. Our joint statement with our UK sister organisations and Eurochild was published in the Guardian in July.



Powers to search children and young people for alcohol blocked

In November 2016, Scottish ministers blocked proposals to allow police to search children for alcohol without legal cause. It followed our response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on the issue in July 2016, in which we concluded that the new powers would be discriminatory and counter-productive as there are other methods available to alter young people’s relationship with alcohol which stand a greater chance of success.



The inaugural meeting of the new Children’s Sector Strategic and Policy Forum, in June 2016, was attended by the Deputy First Minister. It is an opportunity for senior members of the children’s sector to discuss areas of key strategic importance.

Meaningful participation and engagement with children and young people

Providing spaces for children and young people to communicate the issues in their lives

Engaged with 793 children and young people

On developing meaningful relationships:

“I’ve met staff that’s in it for the money, and I’ve met staff that in it for the job, because they actually care about young people.”

Alternative Futures (2016)

On making time to listen:

“We need to be heard to help children over the world to ensure their rights”

Enquire consultation (2016)

On the need for advocacy:

“I think you need somebody there... when I was going through children’s hearings [I needed] somebody who has been through them telling me, ‘this is what’s going to happen, don’t say this, be honest’ and stuff like that.”

Alternative Futures (2016)

At Children in Scotland we advocate for the right of children and young people to shape policy and legislation in all areas that affect them.

During 2016-17 we strengthened our direct participation and engagement activity, gathering and presenting young people’s views to decision makers to ensure their voices are heard.

We have collaborated with children and young people from across Scotland to find out what is important to them. We have asked them about school governance, mental health and wellbeing, STEM subjects, school nursing, violence, police stop and search powers, architecture and design, food, and the Year of Young People. We listen carefully and faithfully represent these views to advocate and affect change.

A big thank you to all of the children and young people who have helped us to develop our work in 2016-17.

This year’s highlights include:

- As part of the **excited.ED** project, children under 12 shared their views on education governance
- Recruitment began for young ‘co-design champions’ who will be involved in making key decisions about the celebratory **Year of Young People 2018**
- Supported by Stone Opera, a panel of children and young people judged entries for **Making Space 2016**
- Awarded the 2016 **UK Housing Excellence Award (HEA) for youth engagement** in our Beyond4Walls project
- Led a consultation with children under 12 on the Scottish Government’s **Mental Health Strategy**
- Introduced a **children and young people’s evidence bank**, providing a systematic way to record and analyse their views on issues that affect them
- Developed a **speakers’ briefing on communication to support the engagement of children and young people**, used by candidates at our own Holyrood hustings and adopted at a European level by Eurochild
- Our regular **‘In My Own Words’** feature gives children and young people a voice in Children in Scotland Magazine
- Engaged over 75 youth advisors from schools and youth forums around Scotland in shaping the development of **Reach**, a new website for young people.



Strengthening the children's sector

We provide opportunities for networking and platforms for expert voices that will enhance knowledge and strengthen practice

International trauma expert Dr Bruce Perry attracts 200 delegates

In his one and only Scottish appearance, Dr Perry spoke about his ground-breaking and sector-leading work in child trauma at an event in Edinburgh in 2016. He identified the immeasurable value of positive relationships and positive interactions, particularly in early childhood.

"An excellent, informative, inspirational session."
"Very enjoyable and useful. Fascinating subject matter and delivered in such an engaging way."

Annual conference 2016: wellbeing and the world of the child

Our flagship event for the children's sector attracted 200 delegates in November 2016. Mark McDonald MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years, was our keynote speaker and delegates explored a range of issues including effective engagement with children and young people, inclusive education, Scotland's response to the refugee crisis, child protection, food poverty, and paediatric palliative care.

"One of the best starts to any conference I've ever attended. Fantastic planning and organisation – thank you."
"Inspirational, powerful, thought-provoking, and emotional."

Education, society and life in Finland – a sold-out study visit

Thirty delegates travelled with three Children in Scotland staff members to Helsinki in March 2016 to share best practice in education and learning with professionals who work in a country esteemed for its approach and successes in childcare. So popular was this event, another is planned for 2017-18.

"Thanks for a really inspiring trip. I feel privileged to have had a place on the first one and will definitely be encouraging colleagues and partner organisations to take part in future visits"

Opportunities for member networking

Six events were delivered free for members of Children in Scotland during 2016-17, providing an opportunity for members to network with colleagues from across the sector. The events included Breakfast with the Minister for Mental Health, Maureen Watt.

"This was a very professional, relevant event for me. I will share a great deal of what was raised today."

Children in Scotland magazine

2016-17 marked the move from a monthly to a 38-page bimonthly Children in Scotland Magazine. Reaching a readership of around 7,000 individuals through our membership and subscribers, it has provided a platform for decision-makers and experts to offer insight into some of the most pressing issues affecting children and young people in Scotland today, including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon; Professor Helen Stalford, an expert on the impact of Brexit on children and young people; trauma expert Bruce Perry; and Mark MacDonald MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years.



We are maximising the power and influence of Scotland's children's sector by continuing to build our membership
We welcomed 110 new members in 2016-17

111 events

Three two-day conferences

19 masterclasses

Two full-day conferences

1,798 delegates

14 member and policy events

900 evaluations with a 93.29% overall satisfaction rate from delegates

National services

We continue to manage and support direct services that provide advice and support to children, young people and their families across Scotland

Enquire: helping you understand additional support for learning

Information for children and young people: Enquire consulted with 75 young people on the development of a new website specifically for young people. Reach (www.reach.scot) aims to be a 'go-to' source of advice for dealing with circumstances that might be impacting on a young person's life and their ability to attend, get the most from, and enjoy school. Life issues covered on the website include being bullied; changing and leaving school; struggling with difficulties at home; feeling low or anxious; finding it hard to take part at school; being care experienced; and many more.

Parents: Enquire consulted with 490 parents and carers to determine their information needs, and created a series of four blogs 'Understanding the basics' to help them understand their children's rights to support in school, which have been viewed nearly 6,000 times.

Practitioners: A stand at the Scottish Parliament in March 2017, sponsored by Daniel Johnson MSP, highlighted the support Enquire can offer MSPs on their ASL casework. In addition, 3000 leaflets were carried in the Times Education Supplement Scotland magazine, promoting Enquire to teaching professionals.

Annual event: Enquire's annual conference in March 2017 attracted 170 delegates. Highlights of the programme included Adam Bennett, from Fostering Network, talking about the positive impact of schools on care experienced young people and Dr Peter Vermuelen talking about Autism and Happiness.

European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASNIE): Enquire represents Scotland as the National Coordinator on EASNIE, attending bi-annual meetings and promoting Scotland's involvement in EASNIE to key stakeholders.

Helpline: The Enquire Helpline received 1504 calls during 2016-17, providing advice and information about additional support for learning.

Providing mediation for cases relating to the provision of additional support for learning

Resolve continues to be the largest ASL mediation provider in Scotland covering 15 local authorities, which includes two new contracts secured in 2016-17. Resolve received 142 new referrals this year, 79 of which went on to full mediation cases.

National Parent Forum for Scotland and Parenting Across Scotland

Hosting of **National Parent Forum for Scotland (NPFSS)** was renewed in 2016-17 and our hosting arrangement extended to **Parenting across Scotland**.

ENQUIRE



RESOLVE : ASL

31,731 publications
distributed

1,504 additional
support or learning
enquiries responded to

1,117 services updated
on the map of services

170 delegates at the
Enquire annual conference

43 blog posts sharing
information for children
and young people, and
parents, carers and
practitioners

"Thank you for sending such a good packet of information out to me. So good in fact I sat down and forgot that I was doing housework! I am certain it will be a big help. Again thanks so much. We are so lucky in Scotland for having all this advice."

Caller, Enquire Helpline