

Examples of our consultancy work – and what people say about us



> Quantitative research and analysis

We have significant experience in carrying out quantitative and mixed method studies, analysing data and undertaking large-scale consultation exercises. Recent examples include:

The Commission for Childcare Reform

The project team comprised a range of partners, led by a Children in Scotland team

It produced a wide-ranging analysis of the current context, challenges and opportunities in childcare, and the requirements for a Scottish childcare system to be able to provide excellent quality provision for children, families and Scottish civic society

In addition to an analysis of the national and international evidence to support improvement, the following analytical methods were included:

- A parent / carer questionnaire, which received 2,592 responses
- Twenty five focus groups across Scotland with parents, trade unions, providers, employers, such as the Scottish Council for Development and Industry's North East Employers' Forum and Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, third sector organisations, CoSLA, the Association of Directors of Education, and the Scottish Government and its agencies.
- Engagement with more than 100 organisations
- Responses via our social media channels
- Fifteen expert submissions to our call for evidence.

Glasgow City Council

The council wanted a review of the demand, supply and future funding options for improving its childcare provision, with a particular focus on provision in areas of disadvantage.

This analytical review conducted by the Children in Scotland project team included the following methods:

- A parent / carer questionnaire which received 1,540 responses
- Analysis of Glasgow City Council-held information and its 110 early learning and childcare settings by ward, delivery model and capacity
- Analysis of capacity and demand by combining sources held by Care Inspectorate and Glasgow CC of provision by all providers in Glasgow CC of around 20,507 places
- Analysis of the cost of provision per child/every establishment by combining sources held by Care Inspectorate and Glasgow CC
- Comparative cost analysis using the above and a range of national data.

Evaluation of Diana Nurses

Children's Hospice Association Scotland approached Children in Scotland to undertake a three-year evaluation of the Diana Children's Nurses. This was to evaluate the extent to which the service has met its aims and objectives and to generate learning about the barriers and facilitators to improving palliative care for babies, children and young people in Scotland.

The project plan is split into three stages and includes staff training needs assessments / questionnaires; qualitative interviews with parents and carers, frontline staff and policymakers; and case studies. Findings from these stages will be synthesised to produce a final report.



> Experience of participation and engagement

Children in Scotland has a well-established work programme supporting the participation and engagement of children and young people, as well as their families, in shaping policy and services. Recent examples include:

Beyond 4 Walls

An award-winning research project combining our commitment to participation and tackling disadvantage, Beyond 4 Walls was run in partnership with Wheatley Group and the Poverty Alliance. It involved a group of young people aged 14-21 from across Glasgow coming together to discuss and explore housing, economic and community issues in Scotland.

An important aim of the study was to enable housing providers to better understand the communities they work in and gain a more informed perspective on how they can meet the needs of the young people who live in their properties, both as tenants and as part of a household. The project report showed that the majority of young people believe they need additional support when moving into their first home. This included easy-to-understand forms to apply for housing. They would also like support to develop life skills such as banking, budgeting, cooking and cleaning.

In 2016 the project won the prestigious UK Housing Excellence Award (HEA) for youth engagement.

Access All Areas

This longstanding project, funded since 2003 by Scottish Borders Council, began as a consultative approach with children and young people on issues around accessibility in their schools. It developed into a pupil voice and pupil participation project in response to Curriculum for Excellence, GIRFEC, UNCRC and the Additional Support for Learning Act. Its fundamental aim is to empower all pupils to have a say on what happens in their schools and classrooms and to support teachers and senior managers in developing participatory practice.

Leaders of Learning

A national project delivered in partnership with Young Scot, the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Children's Parliament, Leaders of Learning engages and consults with children and young people (CYP) to identify how well they understand their entitlement to a broad general education under Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). Following a wide-ranging scoping exercise in Phase One, a thematic approach was developed to address the key messages that arose from the children and young people.

In Phase Two the themes focused on were digital literacy, the impact of emotional wellbeing on learning, and involving pupils in planning their learning. Each school explored one of the themes. The outputs from this work influenced a more robust approach within the same schools in the current Phase Three, which will lead to the children and young people making recommendations on how schools can best support each theme.

> What people say about us

'Children in Scotland has three main strengths as Social Work Scotland see it: a forensic knowledge of policy development, delivery and impact in children's services; a big-picture view of policy and the impact and interdependencies of policy decision-making; and a first class network of big relationships with key individuals and organisations in the sector.'

Social Work Scotland, 2017

'Children in Scotland is able to work flexibly with the service commissioner and to adapt to the local context. The organisation has a breadth of knowledge and understanding across the children's sector, which assists in making connections and joining up thinking and can lead to previously unconsidered options coming to the fore. Children in Scotland very ably fulfills the role of 'critical friend', challenging thinking and current practice but from a position of seeking to find supportive solutions.'

Glasgow City Council, 2015