



Annual Report 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 all children have an equal chance to flourish.

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

Challenging 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).

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.

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.



2016-17 in quotes and statistics

> "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

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

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

> Our 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.

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.



2016-17 in quotes and statistics

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

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

> An exhibition of the Making Space 2016 shortlisted entries and winners was 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

2016-17 in quotes and statistics

> 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

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

'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.



2016-17 in quotes and statistics

> **163** media mentions

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

> *"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 and innovative in its approach if the [new social security] powers 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** (September 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

2016-17 in quotes and statistics

> Engaged with **793** children and young people

> On meaningful relationships:

"I've met staff that are in it for the money, and I've met staff that are 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:

"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'"

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

2016-17 in quotes and statistics

> 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

> We ran a total of **111 events**

> Three two-day conferences

> **19** masterclasses

> **Two** full-day conferences

> **14** member and policy events

> We welcomed a total of **1,798** delegates

> **900** evaluations with a **93.29%** overall satisfaction rate from delegates

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."

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; trauma expert Bruce Perry; and Mark MacDonald MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years.



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 impact 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 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



2016-17 in quotes and statistics

> 31,731 publications distributed

> 1,504 responses to enquiries about additional support for learning

> 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 to me. 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

Our Finances

A summary of our financial report 2016-17

End of year statement

An overall surplus of £7,349 has been recorded for the year ending 31 March 2017.

Unrestricted and restricted funds

An increase of £29,672 in unrestricted reserves has been achieved in line with the organisation's strategy to gradually build up unrestricted funds. £22,323 has been drawn down from restricted reserves in the year 2016-17.

Overall income

Income has exceeded £2m for the second year in a row.

To note

A significant change to this year's accounts is that following the introduction of FRS102 SORP with its requirement to disclose the net present value of agreed pension deficit contributions Children in Scotland's unrestricted funds balance is now a negative figure (£332,611).

There is an agreed recovery plan in place meaning that the pension liability's impact on the unrestricted funds balance should reduce year on year and our strategy to gradually build unrestricted funds to a position where they can cover 3 months of running costs can ultimately be achieved.

The Directors are satisfied that the current level of reserves and income pipeline is sufficient to meet operational expenditure.

A full set of our 2016-17 audited accounts is available on our website www.childreninScotland.org.uk

Financial report 2016-17	
Income	
Grants and contracts	1,508,239
Training, events & conferences	325,262
Membership	113,965
Donations	55,570
Publications	4,883
Other	33,609
Total	2,041,528
Expenditure	
Charitable activities	2,010,179
Total	2,010,179
Actuarial losses on pension schemes	24,000
Total surplus for the year	7,349
of which restricted (deficit)	-22,323
of which unrestricted (surplus)	29,672

