

# Children in Scotland

## Free member events: 2017-18 review

Children in Scotland offers a diverse range of free members' learning events, shaped by members needs, and offering members opportunities to learn, network and contribute their views on a range of policy and practice related issues. We have gathered valuable feedback from members who have attended our events. This report provides an overview of anecdotal and statistical information about free member events between April 2017 and March 2018.



## Learning events

As part of our efforts to strengthen the children's sector workforce we organise a comprehensive programme of training workshops, seminars, conferences and other events. This programme includes a range of free learning opportunities for Children in Scotland members.

### Member feedback

- 94% of members rated the knowledge of their trainer as good or excellent
- 92% of delegates rated trainer delivery as good or excellent
- 88% of delegates rated course content as good or excellent

I feel inspired to take this further forward and now want to educate myself on Islam to be ready to challenge constructively.

*Islamophobia seminar*

Lovely venue, great catering, great to hear where others are at.

*Maximising your organisation's online presence*

Really valuable sharing up to date resources.

*Introduction to digital citizenship*

More confident with my responsibility as PVG counter-signatory.

*Understanding the disclosure and PVG process*

This training met and exceeded my expectations. I needed to 'raise the bar' on parent participation in nursery and this has given me important tools to do so.

*The Spectrum of participation: effectively engaging parents and carers*

I'm not a person who ticks the excellent boxes out of habit but this was a great session.

*Supporting young carers in educational settings*

Very informative! Please kindly deliver such workshops in future as well! Keep it up!

*Islamophobia seminar*

Excellent, thought-provoking presentations.

*Voices Members' Forum*

Increased knowledge will improve my policy work and potentially for proposals.

*Voices Member Forum*

Stimulating, engaging presentations by clearly knowledgeable and enthusiastic trainers – thank you.

*The impact of imprisonment on families, children and young people*

Informative, thought-provoking, enjoyable.

*The Spectrum of participation: effectively engaging parents and carers*

## Members' Forums

Our Members' Forums have been developed to meet the needs of the children's workforce while also providing the opportunity to bring members together with the ambition of influencing policy and practice.

## Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum

This group meets at least four times per year and takes a pro-active and evidence-based approach to improving children's lives at a national level. Membership is made up of Children in Scotland Members who hold senior positions within the children's sector and we are pleased to have secured the attendance of the Permanent Secretary at our 2018 meetings. There are also up to five places per meeting for individuals in membership with specific expertise relevant to the topic under discussion. At the Forum, Members pool their knowledge and expertise to come together and help identify children sector-wide solutions.

## Voices Forum

Voices brings together the diverse knowledge, skills and experience of our members to seek solutions for the most pressing issues affecting children in Scotland today. Combined with participation from children and young people, and outputs from our Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum, it is a powerful collection of voices calling on decision-makers to improve children's lives.

The Forum holds four events per year, complemented by opportunities for Members to feed in their views and ideas remotely.

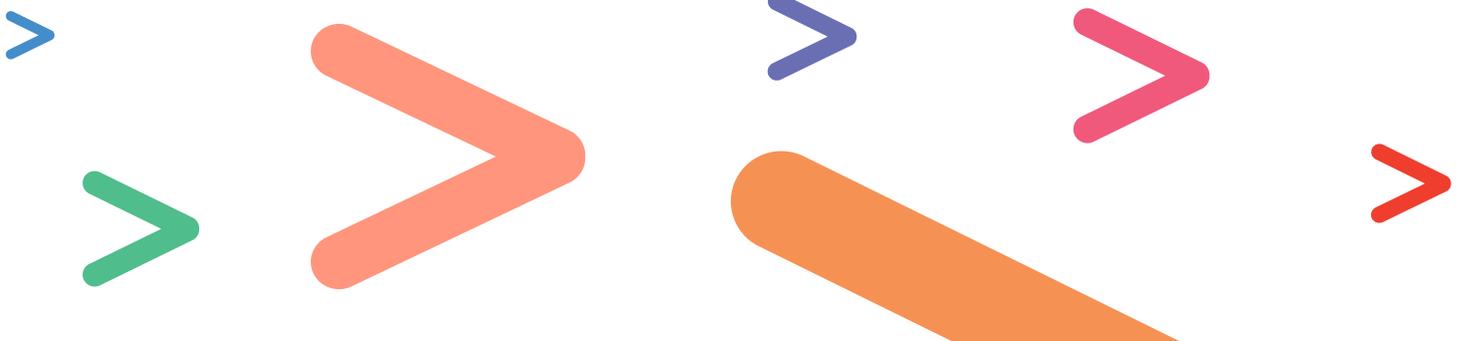
**'Being a Member means being involved in a fantastic network of professionals and organisations working together to do their best for children, young people and their families.'**

**Antonia Clark**  
**Attainment Programmes**  
**Assistant Manager,**  
**Scottish Book Trust**

## Networking event

Over 150 delegates joined us for our Members' Networking Event on 19 September 2017 at Dovecot Studios, to hear about our recent and forthcoming work and to network with other members.

The event was an opportunity for us to thank members for making a difference to children's lives. It was also a chance for those working in the sector to meet, network, learn and debate the key issues facing the sector today. Our 2018 Members' Networking Event, planned for 10 October, will celebrate 25 years of Children in Scotland and see the launch of our 25 Calls for improving the lives of Scotland's children now and in the future.



**' Membership provides STAF with an excellent vehicle to reach the child and youth fields and a wide audience in terms of the sector and our role. We are able to engage with organisations that probably wouldn't be aware of all aspects of our work and to join with them in partnership...'**

**Julian Dawydak, Communications Leader,  
Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum**

## **What next?**

**2018-19 will see us build upon the free Member event programme and offer a range of exciting learning opportunities.**

One of the highlights will be our annual Networking Event taking place on 10 October, where we will also launch our 25 Calls campaign celebrating our 25th anniversary by looking to the future. Other opportunities for our Members over the coming months include:

- An introduction to safer interviewing, Friday 24 August 2018
- Guardianship and power of attorney, 20 September 2018
- Listening to children and young people: exploring participative methodologies, 27 September 2018
- Our 25th Anniversary Members Networking Event, 10 October 2018
- How to build a brand and help your organisation communicate with impact, 30 October 2018
- Understanding and embedding good governance, 15 November 2018

More details can be found on our website and the next Learning Guide which will be published in September, providing information on free member events taking us into 2019.

**It's good to be part of a network of children and youth organisations dedicated to helping young people. It offers great opportunities to share good practice, learn from and inspire one another, and to aim higher for those we are championing.**

**Denise King, Chief Executive,  
GirlGuiding Scotland**

