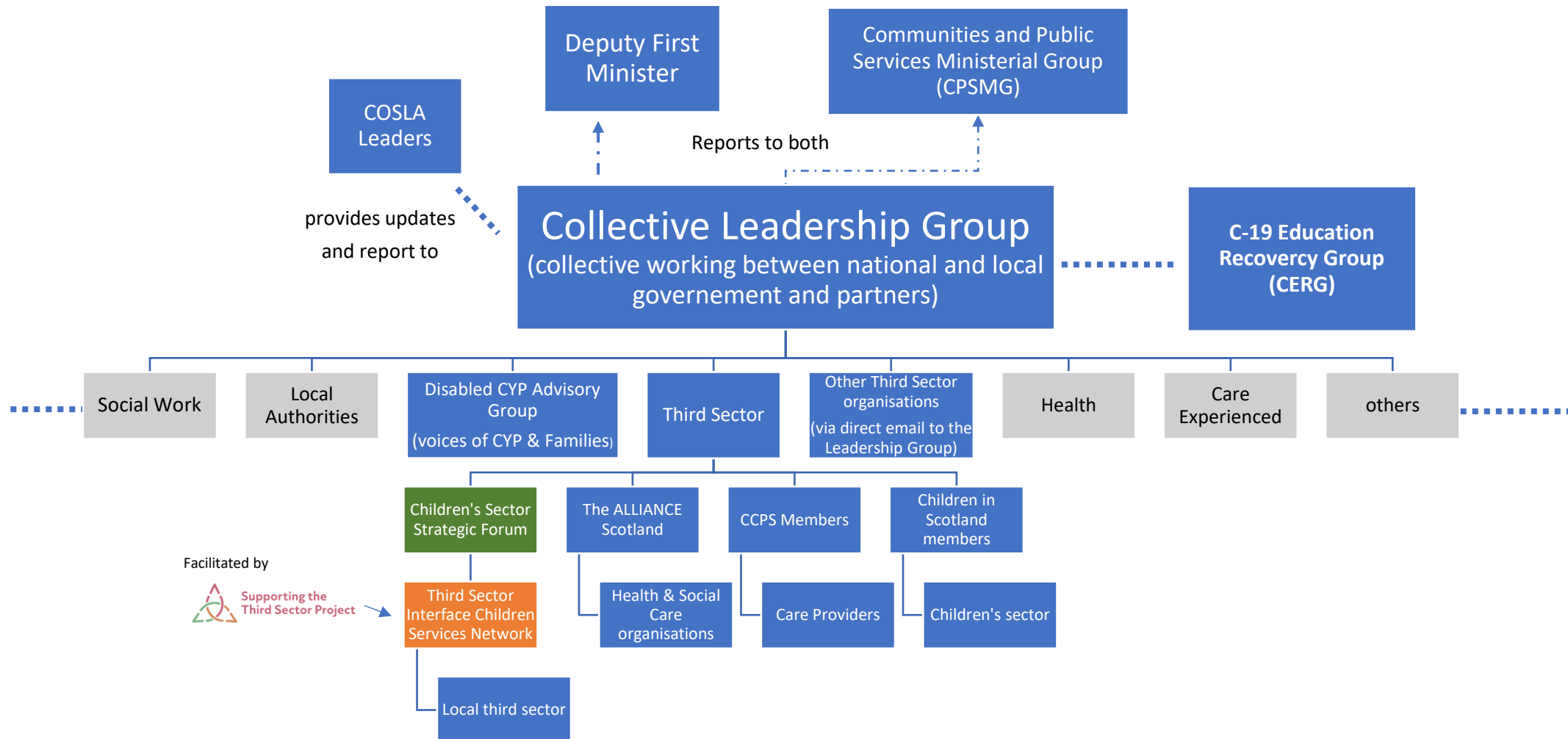


# COVID-19 Children & Families Collective Leadership Group

## Structural chart- Third sector involvement



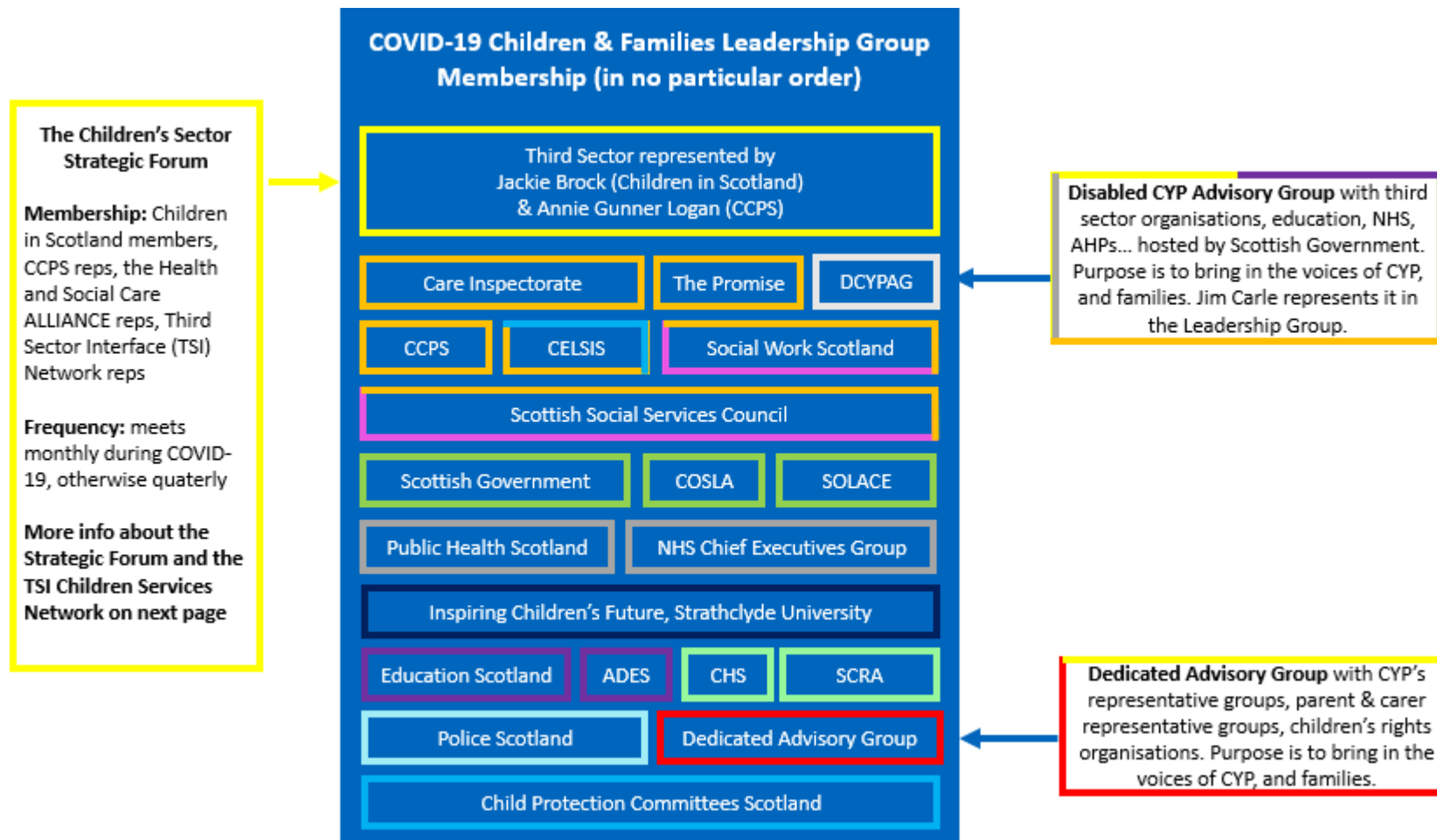
# COVID-19 Children & Families Collective Leadership Group

**Co-chaired by:** Iona Colvin – SG Interim Director of Children and Families; Karen Reid – Chief Executive of Perth and Kinross Council

**Purpose:** Review regular intelligence, identify issues requiring action, and provide local and national leadership in delivering a response

**Accountability:** Reports to Deputy First Minister, COSLA Leaders and CPSMG, links with C-19 Education Recovery Group

**Meeting:** Fortnightly



#### Acronyms:

**ADES:** Association of Directors of Education in Scotland  
**AHP:** Allied Health Professional  
**CCPS:** Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland  
**CELSIS:** Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (University of Strathclyde)  
**CERG:** C-19 Education Recovery Group  
**CHS:** Children's Hearings Scotland  
**COSLA:** Convention of Scottish Local Authorities  
**CPSMG:** Communities and Public Services Ministerial Group  
**CYP:** Children and Young People  
**NHS:** National Health Service  
**SCRA:** Scottish Children's Reporter Administration  
**SOLACE:** UK's leading membership network for public sector and local government professionals  
**TSI:** Third Sector Interface

#### Organisation type/area of work:

	Health
	Care
	Police
	Scottish Government & local authorities
	Education
	Justice
	Academics & research
	Child Protection
	Third Sector
	Social Work
	CYP, parents, carers, pregnant women

 Multiple

#### Other elements:

 Feeds into

 Leadership Group Member

### Aim of the Strategic Forum

In addition to the [Voices Forum](#), Children in Scotland also hosts the Children's Sector Strategic Forum to ensure cohesive policy development at strategic level. The Strategic Forum works directly with the Scottish Government to support more effective, joined up policy making that reflects the needs and experiences of children, young people and their families.

### Membership of the Forum

The group is comprised of Children in Scotland members who hold senior positions within the children's sector. They are elected by the wider Children in Scotland membership to reflect the breadth of issues that affect the lives of children and young people. The group meets usually meets 3-4 times a year.

#### Current membership:

- Aberlour (CCPS Rep)
- Action for Children
- Carnegie Trust
- Children's Hospices Across Scotland
- Children in Scotland
- COSLA
- Child Poverty Action Group Scotland
- Crossreach (CCPS Rep)
- Early Years Scotland
- Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
- Home-Start UK Scotland
- Includem
- LicketySpit Theatre Company
- One Parent Families Scotland
- Play Scotland
- PAMIS (the ALLIANCE Rep)
- Save the Children
- Scottish Commission for Learning Disability
- Scottish Childminding Association
- Scottish Women's Aid
- Social Work Scotland
- Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (CCPS Rep)
- Scottish Youth Parliament
- Third Sector Interface Network
- Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
- YouthLink Scotland
- Zero Tolerance

\*CCPS – Coalition of Care and Supports Providers focuses on third sector provider issues

### Response to Covid-19

During the period of Covid-19 pandemic, the group meets every month to share expertise of identifying solutions and improvements. The Strategic Forum provides one of the principle routes for engagement between members and the Scottish Government.

In April, the discussion focussed on the impact on children and families, impact on the workforce, and role of the third sector. This meeting was recorded into a podcast titled '*Responding to crisis - the vital role of the children's sector during the Covid-19 pandemic*'. It is now available for access via our Youtube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7B4nfliDGMk>

### How can I make a contribution?

Although the Strategic Forum meetings are for elected representatives only, please listen to the podcast above or read the transcript if you have not already done so. It will give you an idea of the issues raised, and the organisations involved in that discussion. If you have other issues you'd like to add, please email

[pppteam@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:pppteam@childreninscotland.org.uk)

## Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) in Scotland

Third sector interfaces were created across all local authority areas in Scotland to provide a single point of access for support and advice for the third sector within local areas.

Third Sector Interfaces develop and deliver a range of services that meet the needs and experiences of the diverse local third sector and communities. Examples of their work include (this is not an exhaustive list and may vary from area to area):

- facilitating thematic networks
- supporting the third sector's strategic participation in Community Planning Partnership
- promoting and supporting volunteering
- building capacity of the workforce
- giving advice on governance, funding, HR issues and legal compliance

### Children's Partnership

In relation to Children's Services, TSI plays a significant role as a strategic partner. In a recent survey, 21 TSIs said they represented the third sector in the local Children's Partnership. These 21 TSIs also support members of the local network to represent the third sector at strategic groups within the Partnership structure.

In the same survey, many TSIs described themselves as 'Facilitator', 'Enabler' and 'Collaborator'. Sixteen (16) TSIs stated that they support a third sector Children's Services Network in their area, with another 2 about to re-launch. These local networks provide a valuable mechanism for the third sector to share good practice, discuss issues, strengthen joint working and contribute to local children's services strategic planning collectively.

### Connecting local voices to national discussions

The TSI Children's Services Network brings the TSIs together and provide a platform for capacity building through knowledge exchange and peer support.

The TSI Network is hosted by the [Supporting the Third Sector Project](#) (previously known as National Third Sector GIRFEC or NTSG Project) of Children in Scotland. The Project supports the Network as well as the local Children's Services Forums to amplify their voices at national discussions and use their local work, knowledge and experiences to inform and influence national policy development.

### Response to Covid-19

During the period of Covid-19 pandemic, TSIs have been working in partnership with their statutory partners and the local third sector to co-ordinate community responses to help people in need. Again, the range of support and how it was delivered differ slightly from area to area to reflect the local demand. For example:

- connecting organisations to strategically plan and deliver support
- advocating on third sector's role and good practice
- highlighting, and addressing, gaps and concerns shared by the sector and communities
- running helpline
- making and taking referrals
- recruiting, matching and training volunteers
- creating services directory
- giving business support
- distributing emergency funding to help sustain critical local support services and many more.....

## **How can I make a contribution?**

The Supporting the Third Sector Project is working with the TSI network to collate information about positive stories, service gaps, concerns from the third sector during the outbreak of COVID-19. This information will be shared with the Scottish Government for planning and review purposes. If you'd like to contribute, please get in touch with your local Third Sector Interface. There is one TSI in each local authority area in Scotland. You can find out their contact details here.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/third-sector-interfaces-contact-details/>