

Establishing a children and young people's advisory group

Children in Scotland

May 2021

Plan for the session

- Introductions and icebreaker
- CiS experience – Changing Our World
- Discussion – questions, sharing, next steps

Icebreaker



Name, role, location

Choose your Queen Song!

Under Pressure

We Are The Champions

Don't Stop Me Now

I Want To Break Free

The Show Must Go On

I Want It All

It's A Hard Life

Killer Queen

One Vision

I'm Going Slightly Mad

Children in Scotland

- Membership organisation (550+)
- Children's rights and wellbeing
- Services - Enquire, Resolve, My Rights My Say
- Learning and Events
- Media reach
- Policy, Projects & Participation (influencing)



Why an advisory group - UNCRC

Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

Why an advisory group - UNCRC

UN Committee defines participation as:

Ongoing processes, which include information sharing and dialogue between children and adults, based on **mutual respect** in which children can learn how their views and those of adults are taken into account and shape the outcome.

Changing Our World – the beginning

- Aim - to be lead by cyp's experiences and opinions
- Two-way relationship
- Commitment of funding
- Established summer 2017
- Accessible recruitment and supportive environment
- 8-26 year olds

What we didn't know

- Length and regularity of meetings
- Group dynamic
- Cyp's interests, experiences, ASN etc
- How it would incorporate across the organisation (strategic and daily practice)



Changing Our World – first steps

- Getting to know you (CiS and cyp)
- Establishing group's 'norms'
- Cyp's interests and 'hot topics'



Changing Our World – development

- Rhythm
- Relationships
- Opportunities – internal and external



Changing Our World - challenges

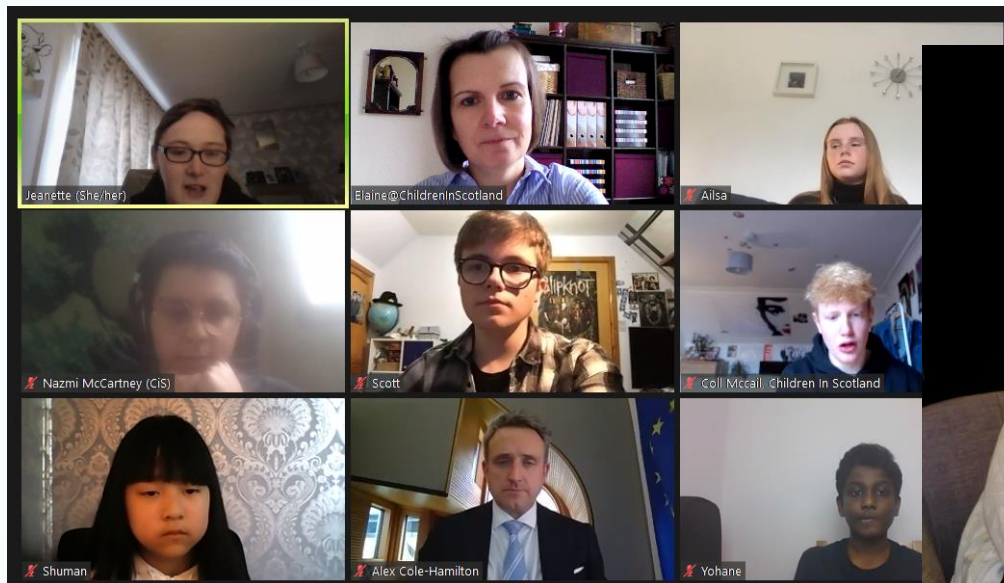
- Range of ages, interests, ASN, geography etc
- It is not a quick process
- Funding is essential
- Wider understanding of the group's role

Changing Our World - successes

- Most have stayed!
- Range of ages, interests, ASN, geography etc
- P&E development across the organisation
- Opportunities (internal and external)

Changing Our World - successes

- Practicalities (office, events)
- Strategic plan (hot topics, meetings)
- CiS events (workshop)
- Recruitment (P&E and CEO)
- CiS related opportunities (CPG, Hustings)
- Wider opportunities (SQA, Unicef)



Changing Our World – in their own words

‘We are the children and young people's advisory group for Children in Scotland, with current members aged 9-23, all with different backgrounds, ideas, experiences and views.’

‘We have regular meetings to offer our perspectives and experiences to Children in Scotland to make their work more relevant.’

‘We share experiences from our lives and we get to express ourselves.’



Changing Our World – in their own words

‘It allows you to make positive change for the young people of Scotland’

‘Working in COW gives you the most amazing opportunities to shape the thinking of one of Scotland’s foremost young people’s organisation.’

‘It is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in bettering the lives of children in Scotland.’

‘It is a great feeling to know that you are taking part in making Scotland a better place for young people.’

‘It’s a great opportunity to meet new people ‘



Changing Our World – what next?

- More members
- Review progress and ‘hot topics’
- Manifesto areas – any others?
- Working with other groups?

Question and answer

Any questions about the:

- Why?
- How?
- Who?



Useful resource

Children in Scotland's Principles And Guidelines

- Planning and coordination
- Delivery
- Reporting, evaluation and next steps

Sharing experiences

- Where are you on the journey?
- What is going well?
- What is challenging?
- Next steps?



