

Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum

Election Process 2021



Background

Coordinating the Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum is one of Children in Scotland's key mechanisms for achieving our aims. The forum brings together sector leaders to discuss issues of strategic importance for the children's sector.

This paper identifies the process for elections to the Forum.

Forum Governance & Membership

Governance

As the national network for the children's sector, Children in Scotland co-ordinate the Forum and hold the Secretariat. Meetings are chaired by Children in Scotland's Chief Executive Officer.

The Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum serves to meet the needs of children and young people at a national and strategic level. A key requirement is that members leave their organization behind and push the collective work of the forum.

The forum also seeks to identify where it can add value to work that is already underway across the sector.

Since the 2019 elections the forum has been working on five priority areas. To coordinate the work, a lead member of the forum was assigned in each area:

- Reducing Child Poverty – John Dickie, Child Poverty Action Group and Satwat Rehman, One Parent Families Scotland
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing – Martin Dorchester, Includem and Amy Woodhouse, Children in Scotland
- Ensuring the meaning participation and engagement of children and young people – Juliet Harris, Together
- Wellbeing budgeting – Jen Wallace, Carnegie UK Trust
- Family Support – Vicky Wan, Supporting the Third Sector Project, Children in Scotland.

Membership

The Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum has always been made up of Children in Scotland members. It is a combination of elected and non-elected members. Non-elected members include:

- Coalition of Care Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has three places on the forum. The delegates for these places are decided by CCPS
- COSLA has one place on the Forum
- The Health and Social Care Alliance has three places on the forum. The delegates for these places are decided by The Alliance
- The Third Sector Interface network has one place on the forum. The delegate is decided by the TSI network
- The Scottish Youth Parliament retains one place on the Forum for an MSYP
- Social Work Scotland retains one place on the Forum.



Future Membership

The forum is a 30-member group. There will be 12 places up for election at this time, with a range of positions on the forum taken up by members that are covered under the exemptions outlined above.

The election will operate on a thematic basis. Each theme has an allotted number of places available. The number of places available for election under each theme reflects the make-up of Children in Scotland's membership, the forum's priority areas and the need to balance the forum's current make up.

The thematic areas, the number of available places under each theme and the definitions for thematic areas are as follows:

Education (2 places) Your organisation works to support the Scottish education sector, defined as those providing education and learning opportunities to children aged 5-18 and older where they are care experienced or have additional support for learning needs.	Help & Support, including health and wellbeing, ASN etc. (3) Your organisation works in the community to support the holistic needs of children, young people and their families to support them to engage with the other services they use.	Early years, early learning and childcare & family support (2) Your organisation works with children, young people and their families in the pre-school years to promote positive outcomes.
Parents (1) Your organisation works with parents to ensure their voice is heard in discussions and decisions about their children.	Equalities (2) Your organisation works with protected characteristics groups to ensure that their needs are met in policy/decision making.	Other (2) Your organisation is a member of Children in Scotland but does not fit into any of the categories listed above.

Four spots on the forum will be retained for small organisations. Small organisations will be defined by our membership definition.

Exemptions

As has been noted there will be certain exemptions from election to the Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum. This is to ensure consistency of work from this year into next.

The exemptions will include:

- Children in Scotland CEO
- COSLA
- Forum thematic leads
- 3 x CCPS places (please note - members of the CCPS children and families subcommittee cannot apply to be members of the forum via this election.)
- 3 x Health & Social Care Alliance places
- 1 TSI network place • Scottish Youth Parliament
- Social Work Scotland.

Terms of Reference

Clear terms of reference have been set to ensure the forum retains its focus on strategic issues post-election and to ensure all members understand the parameters of the group. These terms of reference have been adapted from those used in the 2019 elections to the Forum:

- Your organisation is a member of Children in Scotland
- You are the Chief Officer of the organization (Or Scottish equivalent)
- You are able to commit to four meetings over the next year in Edinburgh
- You are able to represent the interests of children, families and the children's sector at a national level
- You have knowledge of the strategic challenges in your sector and are able to advocate for strategic change to support children, young people and families rather than focus on the needs and interests of your organisation
- You are willing and able to lead discussions and present papers to the forum as and when required.

Standing for Election

All those who wish to stand will have to confirm that they meet the Forum's eligibility criteria. They will also be required to provide a summary of 200 words outlining their reason for standing and why they think their input will be of value for the Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum. Please send your application to stand to Dana Vreeswijk: dvreeswijk@childreninscotland.org.uk

All Children in Scotland members will be able to vote in the elections. All members will receive the same number of votes regardless of the size of their organisation.

Children in Scotland will disseminate campaign literature to our membership including a booklet with information on candidates standing for election and the rules for voting.

Elections will take place from June – August 2021.



If you have any questions about the election process or standing for election, please contact Dana Vreeswijk:

dvreeswijk@childreninscotland.org.uk

