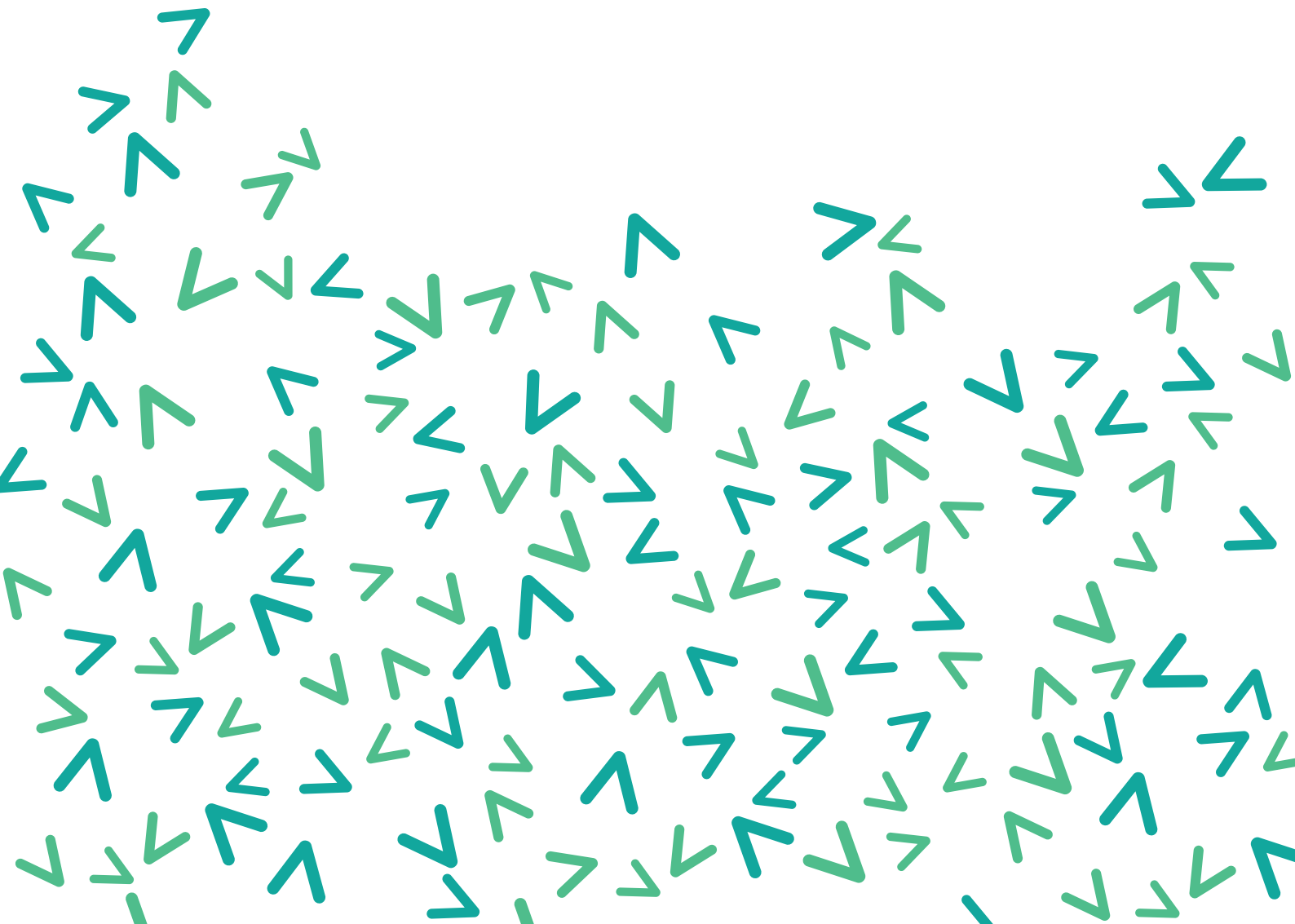




Children in Scotland

Membership Guide



Introduction

Joining Children in Scotland's network through our Membership Service provides you with a wide range of benefits, opportunities to engage in our work and have your say, while also supporting the wider work of the charity.

Our vision

Giving all children in Scotland an equal chance to flourish is at the heart of everything we do.

By bringing together a network of people working with and for children, alongside children and young people themselves, we offer a broad, balanced and independent voice. We create solutions, provide support and develop positive change across all areas affecting children in Scotland.

We do this by listening, gathering evidence, and applying and sharing our learning, while always working to uphold children's rights. Our range of knowledge and expertise means we can provide trusted support on issues as diverse as the people we work with and the varied lives of children and families in Scotland.

Our values

Respect and trust

We treat everyone with respect and trust and value their unique contribution – children, young people and their families, our staff and volunteers, our members and all our stakeholders.

Collaboration and participation

We are committed to working together with active participation and inclusion of children, young people and their families, our staff and volunteers, our members and all our stakeholders.

Transparency and integrity

We share our thinking and learning and are committed to honesty and openness in all our work.

Informed, focused and accountable

We are committed to keeping up to date, working towards defined goals and taking responsibility for our actions.

“Membership of Children in Scotland is very important in connecting policy priorities to a wider network of professionals within the children's sector to help enact positive change for people with learning disabilities”

*Kenneth Fleming,
Scottish Commission for Learning Disability*

Why join?

We want as many people as possible to be involved in our work - from professionals who become part of our network via social media or attending training, to the children and young people who participate in what we do, to partners who help us deliver our work, to our diverse Membership – covering every part of the children’s sector in Scotland. As part of our multi-disciplinary network of people who bring knowledge, skills, and experience from every part of the children’s sector, you have access to a range of benefits, including:

Insight magazine

Insight is our new bi-annual publication for Children in Scotland members and a key part of our member benefits package.

It’s an exciting opportunity to give our members more in-depth analysis and features about the projects and people shaping the future of Scotland’s children’s sector in a beautifully designed, visually-led publication.

Member training and events

In light of Covid-19 restrictions and our evolving online Learning programme, we are piloting new, free Members' events with a view to rolling out the most successful options across our Membership.

In the meantime, the Voices and Strategic Sector Forum meetings will be regularly taking place – both exclusively available to Members.

Financial discounts

Our Members get a range of discounts on Children in Scotland services and activities including:

- Our in-house training programme
- Advertising in our twice-weekly e-News bulletins, *Insight*, our magazine web pages and our Learning Guide
- Consultancy services.

Exclusive content and resources

Available on our website covering different areas of work including:

- Exclusive reports and briefings
- Blogs from member organisations and individuals in our monthly Members' News
- Summaries from Voices Forum meetings
- Minutes and podcast recordings from meetings of the Children’s Sector Strategic and Policy Forum
- Priority access to our Learning Guides
- Access to our resource archive.

Free recruitment advertising

Available on the recruitment section of our website.

Access to our digital network

All Members are also entitled to benefits as part of our digital network. These include:

- Our twice-weekly e-News bulletins for the children’s sector – filtering the media’s top stories on policy and projects.
- Our monthly Members’ News – keeping Members informed and up to date and providing you with the opportunity to share your learning and amplify your work across our digital network including 25k+ followers on Twitter.

- Members' Hub on our website highlighting exclusive member resources and upcoming member events.

How we engage with you as Members

Using the Children in Scotland network to inform our understanding of key issues, gathering expert views and sharing learning is a key part of how we work. Our Members are central to this and a big part of ongoing engagement will be about using our channels to broadcast your experiences and views, building dialogue and signposting our collective strength.

Consultation responses

We regularly respond to consultations and include contributions from a range of different sources including children and young people and our Members.

This provides us with a broad perspective and balanced view while giving our Members the opportunity to influence policy and legislation that affects children and families. All our consultation responses are available to our Members via the Members' Hub on the website.

Forum meetings

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

a. **Voices Forum meetings**

The Voices Forum brings together the diverse knowledge, skills and experience of our Members to seek solutions for the most pressing issues affecting children in Scotland today. Every Member of Children in Scotland is welcome to attend and contribute to Voices Forum meetings – we aim to have four meetings a year and these currently take place online.

b. **Children's Sector Strategic Forum**

Prior to the pandemic, this group met four times per year to take a pro-active and evidence-based approach to improving children's lives at a national level. Currently meeting more regularly in response to critical need during the pandemic, the group is made up of Children in Scotland Members who hold senior positions within the children's sector. Nominations and voting for membership of the group takes place every two years.

Direct contact with our staff

Members can get in touch with our staff at any point via email if they would like to talk through particular issues – for example suggestions for training or learning opportunities or specific policy positions or responses. Ideas can then be fed into our regular planning schedule and, where appropriate, put into action.

All of our staff information including names, areas of work and contact details are available on the website.

Social media discussions

We have a strong and ever-growing social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. We use these platforms as an opportunity to share the work we do and discuss key issues for, and with, the sector.

We encourage our Members to get involved in the way that suits them best. We value dialogue and perspectives from the breadth of our network about how to achieve our vision that all children have an equal chance to flourish.

Terms and conditions

There are a range of terms and conditions linked to Membership which are summarised below. If you would like some additional information about anything particular, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Application process

An application form needs to be completed and submitted – via the website, email or post

- All applications are subject to due diligence by the Membership team which includes confirmation of the applicant's:
 - Agreement with Children in Scotland's Values, Vision and Purpose
 - Provision of satisfactory information about their organisation or their individual interest in becoming a Member.
- Additional information will be requested if required
- Membership is subject to approval by the Children in Scotland Leadership Team
- The Children in Scotland Board receive a quarterly report on new Members for information.

Membership, benefits and responsibilities

- Membership of Children in Scotland runs for a 12-month period
- Membership prices are available on the website and any changes are discussed with, and agreed by, the Board. Members will be informed of any changes to prices
- Membership benefits are subject to change throughout the year with detailed information available on Children in Scotland's website
- All our staff must be treated with respect and courtesy. Our Members should expect the same. Our network is large and wide-ranging so differences of view will emerge from time to time. These will be managed appropriately by our staff and, where appropriate, any decision made by them will be final unless a formal complaint is made (see below)
- Members are responsible for ensuring that they inform us of any changes to the information provided at application, including their desire to cancel Membership
- If Membership fees are not paid by the third month of Membership, then the Membership will be cancelled, and all benefits will cease
- Membership is automatically renewed each year – you will receive a reminder beforehand
- We must be advised in advance of the renewal date if you wish to end Membership.

Ceasing Membership

- A Member can cancel their Membership at any point by advising us via email or post
- We reserve the right to cancel a Membership of an individual or organisation if we feel they have created an unacceptable cost to Children in Scotland, be it financial, reputational or in terms of resources
- If Membership is cancelled by the Member or Children in Scotland during the Membership year, we will not offer a pro-rata refund on fees paid.

"Membership of Children in Scotland helps ensure we're up to date with key policy developments, enables our staff and the artists we work with to access relevant training, and provides valuable opportunities for networking and cross-sectoral collaboration"

*Rhona Matheson,
Chief Executive, Starcatchers*

Feedback or complaints

- We are always keen to hear from our Members, who can get in touch via telephone or email, to provide feedback or make suggestions about the work we do
- If there are any concerns or issues, we would hope to resolve these quickly and informally so please speak to one of the team at the earliest possible point
- Members can also make use of the Complaints Procedure if they feel it is necessary. This includes the right of appeal to the Children in Scotland Board if an application is not approved or Membership cancelled by us.

“Our membership is valuable to our people as it opens up opportunities for engagement in learning and development with people from across the children's sector”

*SallyAnn Kelly,
Chief Executive, Aberlour*

Children in Scotland governance

We are very lucky to have a diverse and committed Board of Directors who guide and support the work we do.

The Board is responsible for our overall governance and strategic direction and accepts ultimate responsibility for the sound professional, legal and financial management of Children in Scotland as a charity. They also agree our vision and values, set overall strategy and policies for all key activities, oversee implementation and monitor our progress to plans.

As well as sitting on the Board, Directors may also undertake other roles within the organisation such as being part of working groups or committees involved in the planning or delivery of our work or becoming involved in any complaints.

The Board delegates much of the day-to-day delivery to the Children in Scotland Leadership Team, which is made up of senior managers from across the organisation. They work closely with the different services and staff across the organisation to develop our overarching Strategic Plan and annual delivery plans.

Regular reporting to the Board and funders ensures we are making progress in achieving identified outcomes while remaining focussed on our vision that all children in Scotland have an equal chance to flourish.

Children in Scotland and our Board of Directors function within the legal requirements set out by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and our Articles of Association. On our website you can find information about who is currently sitting on our Board, alongside Annual Reports and our Strategic Plan.

“Early Years Scotland is delighted to be a member of such a progressive and highly respected organisation as Children in Scotland”

*Jane Brumpton,
Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*

Contact us

Children in Scotland's Membership Service is delivered by representatives from across different parts of the charity. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss something with us.

For any general membership queries, contact:

membership@childreninscotland.org.uk

Our Membership Team comprises:



Chris Ross – Senior Policy, Projects & Participation Officer
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Catherine Bromley – Senior Communications Officer
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Simon Massey – Head of Engagement & Learning
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Cat Kozlowski – Senior Learning & Events Officer
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Tracy Hope – Senior Business Development Officer
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