



Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum

Monday 17 June 2024

1:30pm – 5pm

In person meeting

Note of Meeting

Chair: Judith Turbyne (*Children in Scotland*)

Attendees: Allie Cherry-Byrnes (Fastforward), Amy Woodhouse (Parenting Across Scotland), Ben Farrugia (Social Work Scotland), David Mackay (Supporting the Third Sector/Children in Scotland), Douglas Guest (Circle), Claire Burns (CELCIS), Fiona Steel (Action for Children), Jamie Dunlop (SYP), Jenny Miller (PAMIS), John Dickie (CPAG Scotland), Juliet Harris (Together), Marguerite Hunter Blair (Play Scotland), Mark Ballard (National Deaf Children's Society), Mark Hutchison (Fife Voluntary Action), Marsha Scott (Scottish Women's Aid), Martin Dorchester (Includem), Matthew Sweeney (COSLA), Rami Okasha (CHAS), Rhona Matheson (Starcatchers).

Minutes: Hannah Priest (*Children in Scotland*)

Apologies: Jane Brumpton (Early Years Scotland), Jo Derrick (Staf), Graeme McAlister (SCMA), Louise Licznanski (Little Bugs Nursery), Catriona Campbell (East Park), Satwat Rehman (OPFS), Marianne Tyler (The ALLIANCE), Marsaili Fraser (Cattanach), Sally Ann Kelly (Aberlour)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jude welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum for 2024 - 2026. Jude gave the opportunity for members of the group to introduce themselves. This was followed by an icebreaker.

Jude began the meeting by providing an overview of the main outcomes from the previous meeting where the forum specifically looked at the areas of concern for individual organisations as well as what the members thought the priorities for the Forum should be. The key themes were:

- UNCRRC
- Child Poverty
- Funding for Impact
- Early Years

Jude also identified the key moments for potential influencing likely to come up. This included potential Scottish Parliament Elections and the Statutory Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2026.

Jude provided some reflection on subgroups and information sharing within the forum. In terms of subgroups, the plan would not be to necessarily have subgroups constantly running but to create subgroups when necessary for the work. In addition, Jude highlighted the importance of realising the power of the forum also rests in its ability to link organisations up. Therefore, Jude wants to make sure that the space for that is available at forum meetings.

2. UNCRC

Jude welcomed Juliet from Together Scotland to provide the forum with more information regarding the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 (UNCRC Act) and to provide opportunity for forum members to reflect on their own organisations and the specific duties under the Act they would have when commissioned to deliver public services. Juliet also used this time to discuss with the forum how the group can collectively use the Act to hold government to account in delivering children's rights priorities. The slides of this presentation will be shared with the forum.

Juliet began their presentation by introducing the UNCRC Act and the new guidance recently published, highlighting what this means for the members of the strategic forum and the wider children's sector. Juliet reflected that the Act does not include everything Together had pushed for, however provides a significant tool to ensure children and young people are being considered and their rights protected.

Juliet put to the forum some of the important duties within the act that will apply to members of the forum as well as local authorities.

- The Act will commence on the 16 July 2024 and will mean that public authorities, or those who carry out functions of a public nature, have to act compatibly with the UNCRC requirements as set out in the Act. Juliet informed the forum that it is UNCRC requirements as not all elements of every part of the UNCRC are within the scope of the Scottish Parliament, meaning some elements of the UNCRC have been omitted. This does not mean that these elements do not need to be considered in our broader practice but rather that there would not be remedy or redress available through the UNCRC Act in the courts for children and young people in relation to these elements.
- Another important part of the Act is that children and young people and their representatives could use the courts to make sure their rights are recognised. In addition, if you as an organisation are working in a specific area and you have got what is known as a sufficient interest in that area you can bring cases on behalf of children and young people. Juliet identifies that this is an opportunity to work with and talk with organisations such as the Children Commissioner's Office, Clan Childlaw etc in cases where advocacy and influencing have not worked, to take the issues through the courts as an option.

- Duty of Reporting: Scottish Government has to report every year and listed public authorities have to report every three years on what they have done and what they will do to take forward children and young people's rights. Juliet informed the group that Together will be looking at those reports to hold public authorities accountable.

Juliet informed the group that these duties will apply to most organisations that are a part of the forum. It will apply to you if your organisation:

- Is a public authority
- Deliver services that are funded by the government (any level of government)
- Fulfils what is known as a public function. This is anything that is done for the public's benefit. For example providing hospice care.

There will be some distinctions that we will not know until it has gone through the courts. For example, the distinction of public and private. Together campaigned that a child should receive the same level of public service regardless of whether it is delivered by a private or voluntary body or business. As a result the Act's wording was amended to make sure that it covers those delivering public functions, unlike the Human Rights Act.

Juliet informs the group that there is going to be a Skills and Knowledge Framework which will be published in the next couple of weeks which sets out the skills and knowledge needed. It will have a learning library with different learning materials. This has been developed looking at Wales with their welcome measures on children and young people. It brings together five principles from Wales and these have been consulted on with children and young people, as well as professionals. The principles are; embedding children's rights into public services, equality and non-discrimination, empowerment, participation and accountability.

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIAs)

When looking at embedding, we should be using child's rights impact assessments to inform the decisions that we make. This is about making sure that we are identifying and addressing negative impacts. Together recently undertook a research project with the University of Edinburgh Human Rights LLM comparing human rights assessments from Scotland and from Wales identifying their strengths and weaknesses. Something that the research found from both was that no one admitted when they had thought of something that had a negative impact and where they learnt it was not a good idea and changed their mind and approach. Juliet reflects on the importance of being honest about recording when things do not work and use that learning to develop. They should be seen as evolving documents.

- **Q:** A question was asked about whether there is a sanction for charities or public body that does not do a child rights impact assessment.

A: Juliet explained that there is no duty on anyone here to do a child rights impact assessment. There is only a duty on Ministers to do child rights impact assessments on decisions of a strategic nature. However, it would be good practice to do so and would help to ensure compliance with the UNCRC.

- **Q:** A further question was asked about the threshold of strategic nature. For example the BSL Scottish Action plan legally requires Ministers to produce a children and wellbeing impact assessment, however nothing has been produced.

A: Juliet responded that that would be of a strategic nature and therefore be required. Juliet provided an example from Wales regarding withdrawing child free school meal provision in which families took them to court and it was determined that they should have undertaken an impact assessment

- **Q:** An example was given of a situation where a young person was happy with an outcome regarding accessibility of a park because they could manage, however it was not accessible enough for the wider population. It was identified there is a worry of adults using that as a way of not doing enough.

A: Juliet identified that, that is why both pillars of participation and empowerment are important. Empowerment is about making sure that young people know their rights and that they know what they should expect and are able to articulate that. However experiencing rights should not be about having to point out and say what is needed, that is why the preventative role of the Act is important. This part of the Act makes it an obligation on us to get it right on the outset.

- **Q:** A further question was asked about CRWIAs, in particular how the Scottish Government often produces one at the end of process and often far too late. The question was asked whether any part of the Act can help with this.

A: Juliet responded that this will come down to us having the knowledge to hold government to account.

- **Q:** It was identified that many are terrified and uncomfortable with impact assessments and is there a way to make them more accessible and easier to do.

A: Juliet agrees and identifies that this could be a job for the forum. Juliet also identifies that we need government not to be scared of us, but respect us and understand that we are holding them to account, but also have shared priorities and want the same outcomes. We want to develop a respectful and collaborative relationship with government where they are not scared to show us things with fear that we will take them to court. Rather the aim should be being able to work with them to improve them. Juliet highlights the importance of getting things right at the outset.

- **Q:** A member of the group added that often CRWIAs being completed late may be a result of politics and wanting to avoid a 'bad' idea being weaponised against them. Therefore, it is a challenge as there is no incentive for government to do them at any other time than the end once the process has been decided and negotiated. There is a worry that if CRWIAs are taken out of the hands of those developing the policy, they may just end up being a 'tick box' exercise.

- **A:** Juliet puts forward that one way is when talking to officials saying “this is something that you need to consider in your CRWIA”. This shows the importance of relationships and bringing things early on and influencing officials and looking at CRWIAs as an ongoing process that supports policy development and not a piece of paperwork done at one point in the process.

Child Rights Budgeting

Article 4 of the UNCRC has a concept of maximum available resources, which means you should be dedicating as much money as you can to fulfilling children and young people’s rights. While you can still look at efficiencies and look at relocating spending, you should not go backwards in terms of resourcing except in the most dire circumstances. The UNCRC is also clear that investing in families and investing in adults supports children’s rights so therefore not setting up competition between spends.

Juliet highlights that child rights budgeting is a really important tool for the sector. For example, if cuts are being made to youth work, who is making those decisions and have children been involved? Has there been an impact assessment? What impact do the cuts have on children and young people whose rights are most at risk? What alternatives are left for children in that area? This comes down to transparency and accountability of decision making in particular when it comes to budgets.

Equality and Non-discrimination

The UNCRC has a broader definition of non-discrimination than the Equality Act protected characteristics. This means when looking at Article 2 of the UNCRC we need to be thinking not just of protected characteristics, but looking more widely at those who are further from their rights for instance whether the child has care experience, whether they are in poverty. This is key for the impact assessments, considering not just protected characteristics but which groups of children might most be at risk.

Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms

Will need to make sure that children and young people can provide feedback and have access to independent complaints procedures if they have concerns about their rights. Together will be working over the summer with the Tiny Human Rights Detectives who are going to be a group of babies and toddlers and their parents and carers where they will do investigations as to how to raise worries about their rights. The plan is to produce a toolkit from that work to start to model what a usable complaint mechanism looks like.

In the most extreme cases there is the courts. Juliet highlights this as something the forum could consider about when it makes sense to take issues to that level. It is also important to consider that you do not always have to go to the courts, that the very fact that government knows you have got a legal opinion or legal advice on an issue is often enough to promote change.

Juliet also informed the forum that the Scottish Government have produced a 63-page report covering a ‘list of issues’ for children’s rights in Scotland, based on recommendations from UN Committees, Together’s State of Children’s Rights reports and reports from children, young people and the Children & Young People’s Commissioner Scotland. This report has been given to the Strategic Implementation Board. Scottish Government want our help to identify five priority issues. Juliet identifies that she believes there is a role for the forum here.

Additionally, Clan Childlaw is looking to set up their Strategic Litigation Network again and will do this in partnership with Together and are keen to have the forum involved in this as well. This is so when there are tricky situations that are not making progress then Clan Childlaw can look where cases might be taken, not to take them on themselves but to help match up with other lawyers and legal planners they can work with.

3. UNCRC Discussion

The forum was then given the opportunity in groups to consider the following:

- How can the Children's Sector Strategic Forum further embed the UNCRC into our work?
- How can we use the 2024 Act to progress our shared priorities?

The following were identified:

Embedding UNCRC

- To embed UNCRC there is a need to demonstrate good practice such as though CRWIA's with 3-year reporting templates. However what do we do about the W (Wellbeing)?
- Forum does CRWIA on our priorities.
- Identified that many see CRWIAs as not working because they are not filled out honestly. One idea that had been put forward was the creation of exemplar impact assessments created in different policy areas with examples of unintended consequences.
- Sharing CRWIAs and promoting good practice. Showing impact assessments as a journey. Is there something the forum can do to support 'conforming' CRWIAs as part of funding model defaults.
- Showcase 'bad practice' explaining why and provision
- A cultural change is needed – adult focused policies flipped.
- Support for smaller voluntary sector organisations. Listening to their voices, their needs, providing the right resources, and make the processes easy and relevant – potential skills and knowledge framework?
- The above can also be a two-way process. There is potential for learning here from smaller organisations to bigger organisations.
- The "strategic" feedback loop: ensuring forum is apprised of public authority realities.
- Forum connections with Scottish Parliament officials and MSPs.
- Clarity of priorities – "strategic" litigation.
- Ensuring the forum's breadth of strategic insight is captured, profiled, etc.
- Forum is a gateway to inform partners and look at the big issues.
- Bring compassion and kindness to being bravely wrong.
- Within the forum work together to learn from good practice among members and share that with other organisations in the sector. The opportunity to look at specific groups and examples such as "how do you do a good CRWIA if you are the Scottish arm of a UK organisation?" "how do you do a good CRWIA if you work with children and adults?" - Peer Review Process.

- Using the forum as a way to gather intelligence about how implementation is going on the ground and identify any breaches that we see in our services and pull that together and identify some of those areas that we want to speak to law centres or commissioners about.
- Voice and impact on primary carers/mothers as well as children and young people, babies, and children. Live in families and in communities.
- Rights respecting - services for the most marginalised will uphold every child's rights.
- What/where comfort zones will be challenged? How do we challenge vested interests? Are members of the forum vested interests?

Using the Act

- Holding public authorities to account e.g. implementation
- Child's rights budgeting to protect funding for third sector – National? Ring fencing?
- Identifying key breaches of national significance.
- Legal challenges

4. Child Poverty

Jude welcomed John Dickie (Child Poverty Action Group) who also leads along with Satwat Rehman the Child Poverty Subgroup. The slides of this presentation will be shared with the forum.

John began his presentation by providing the forum with the current context surrounding child poverty. John also provided information to the forum of End Child Poverty members recent activity, and further highlighted End Child Poverty's key calls in Scotland. This can be accessed in the slides shared alongside the minutes.

John ended his presentation and provided the forum with the opportunity to ask any questions or highlight any areas for discussion.

Child Poverty Discussion

- **Q:** Has there been any analysis about whether we have a sufficient minimum income, and what impact it would have on child poverty?

A: Would like to ensure one of the things built into the Minimum Income Guarantee Expert Group is the steps towards achieving a general minimum income guarantee from Scotland including practical and substantial steps that will contribute to meeting Scotland's child poverty targets.

- **Q:** Marguerite (Play Scotland) highlighted that Public Health Scotland has now published its report and findings from Round 4 of CEYRIS. This is the fourth round of the COVID-19 Early Years Resilience and Impact Survey that ran in June 2023. This round asked the parents and carers of children aged 0 to 11 years old in Scotland about their experience of the events of the last few years.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

A: John thanked Marguerite for sharing this information and reflected that one of the benefits of the forum can be to share intelligence, identifying where there might be gaps.

- **Q:** The Child Poverty and Equality Group Commission and their recommendations were identified. They have called for civic society involvement in a new planned approach. It was asked and considered whether this would be a potential avenue for the forum to be involved.

A: John agrees and informs that group that he has had conversations with the chair of the commission where they discussed those recommendations. While John agrees and identifies that to achieve this it requires commitment across political parties and beyond politicians to civic society. However, the duty lies with Ministers at Scottish Government to meet these targets between now and 2030 and that is where the obligation lies and an obligation all parties supported. Therefore, it could be a mechanism to working towards getting there, but it needs to feed into continuing to keep the pressure on government.

- **Q:** Ben (Social Work Scotland) added to the discussion some context and developments within social work currently. Ben highlighted that there is a perception now of how highly fragmented the system providing support for families is. This is felt particular around areas such as financial education, financial support, alternative banking options, debt management and debt relief. There are also thoughts surrounding the role of professionals such as health visitors and others and how to utilise those professionals in a more active way in the child poverty mission.

Therefore, the conversations that are taking place surround what more can be done to support within the resources already available. Ben explains that Social Work Scotland will be continuing to be involved in those discussions and that for their members the eradication of child poverty is seen as a prerequisite to delivering the promise and everything else.

A: John adds that there is potential scope to do more. Specifically making use of the local child protection reports and involvement of all local players including social workers, third sector players, etc in shaping what it means for local services to be delivered.

John considered the potential to share intelligence here at the forum with national partner groups where there seem to be connections and the scope for potentially more engagement and involvement ensuring the right people are around the table.

- The importance of ensuring the narrative does not become too central belt and urban orientated was noted. There are some areas where in the last 10 years their third sector resource has vanished. The problem is similar but different in different parts of the country therefore important to have plans appropriate to place.
- Claire (CELCIS) adds that what they are hearing from families is questions around who can support them in a non-stigmatising way. Claire highlights that this discussion

is about links and supporting health visitors and teachers supporting them in that practice without layering more onto what they have got to do in their role. While this is core practice now in terms of some areas like family debt, Claire asks what does this practice actually look like and how do we support them?

- **Q:** A further discussion was had surrounding the intersection between disability and poverty. The example given that many deaf children have to wait for two to three years for basic interventions like hearing aids to be fitted. The outcomes for children who can afford private audiology and children whose parents cannot are markedly different. It was emphasised that is not about child disability payments or welfare, this is about the crumbling of health services that are crucial for disabled children.

A: It was agreed that these gaps need to be addressed and make sure all levels of child poverty are included, including families who are affected by disability. John highlights the importance of this and believes it will be useful to get an insight from Mark at National Deaf Children's Society on what the forum should be focusing on and considering regarding the link between disability and poverty.

- Marsha (Scottish Women's Aid) added that while currently reassured that the government are recognising that particularly a lot of lone, single women have children or very young adults with complex needs, while needing and wanting support to get themselves in employment. There has been a drive for it and the government have taken evidence from Scottish Women's Aid. However, those managing care budgets are not doing this and resulting in a lot of families and mothers being told that it is their job to look after their complex child and not to think about going back to work. There is mixed messaging and conversations need to be had together.
- John reflects on the usefulness of the subgroup in picking up intelligence and having a sense of what is happening to individual organisations and families on the ground. John identifies that it would be beneficial to get back to a place where the forum and subgroup can feedback into where we have contact with government. If we can make sure there is regular opportunities to take stock and hear what is missing in the current approach and its possible impact. This could mean refreshing the subgroup.
- Ben noted that that while not wanted to take away that this government has made meaningful policy steps in relation to child poverty, there is currently no message coming from government that social work should be focused on child poverty. Ben highlights the importance of feeding into groups like the forum and sharing and understanding the lived experience rather than the rhetorical reality.
- Jude added that in many of the groups and spaces that she sits and takes part in are having conversations about how you make the shift to be more upstream and this includes both government and non-government colleagues. Jude iterates that while there is a lot that needs to change it is positive that there is recognition and there are key allies internal to government.

5. Funding

Jude focused on the last theme of the meeting which was funding. Jude explained that often the conversation surrounding funding focuses on funding streams which has had many challenges. However, the funding question comes out in many more ways than just emphasising funding streams. Jude took this opportunity to go through identifying the different themes and provide the forum the opportunity to identify as a group what would be the best use of the group's time.

Grant Funding

Jude emphasised that some of the problems have centred around the specific sources of funding for organisations working with and for children and young people. In particular the CYPFEI & ALEC and CYPFAL, where there have been problems with:

- Re applying for funds (the time that takes) that are then just rolled over
- Communication around CYPFAL
- Timeliness of decision making
- Lack of uplifts, therefore the slipping value of grant awards

Jude updated the forum with the latest she has heard regarding the CYPFAL, CYPFEI & ALEC funding from Scottish Government. Jude explains that there should have been an announcement in June however due to the UK elections there is currently not a date set for an announcement. Jude informed the group that she will keep following up with Phil.

Action: Jude will continue to follow up regarding CYPFEI & ALEC and CYPFAL

SCVO – Fair Funding

Jude highlights those discussions, even when focusing on specific funding streams, are often around the notion of what fair funding looks like. Jude informed the group the SCVO have been doing work on this, and that she had recently had a meeting with them to discuss what they are doing.

SCVO is undertaking work in terms of fair funding putting forward the following:

- Multi-year funding. 3-year minimum commitment
- Sustainable funding. Multi-year funding arrangements with annual inflation-based uplifts. Real living wage and annual uplifts to the real living wage built in. Potential for full cost recovery, including core operating costs, for projects and services.
- Flexible Funding. Funding streams avoid the common default of only providing restricted funds, good discussions on the make-up of restricted and unrestricted funding, flexibility in approach and monitoring, positive partnerships.
- Accessible Funding. Level the playing field, ensure funding decisions issued no later than December and funds paid no later than the start of the tax year in April.

Jude also adds that there is a movement within government to try and improve funding arrangements, but it has not had as much impact as needed. There are real internal challenges and a lot of internal work that needs to be done in order to make advances on this. One of the real challenges in terms of long-term funding will be the fact of the Scottish elections and points to the need for doing some work to try and getting planning around key areas (e.g. child poverty) that crosses parliamentary terms. Jude caught up with a

Scottish Government colleague on this topic and it was obvious that there are many internal challenges, while many people agree with the principles, the actual mechanisms in place and current financial realities are preventing progress.

- The group expressed frustration regarding transparency and how there is a continued lack of information being shared about what is happening with certain funds. Members expressed the amount of staff time, effort and cost that has been used in the process for funding. This takes these resources away from other commitments and jobs that their organisations provide and are funded to do well. Members appreciated that there are challenges in terms of systems and the structures, but it leads to a huge amount of uncertainty.
- Another member added that this discussion builds on conversations from the previous forum meeting about people in government not understanding what it means to be a going concern. If the government believe in the principles that they are trying to adhere to there needs to be clear communication, even if it just an update email rather than the current process or no communication or having to ask others to pursue a response.
- Charities are businesses with people they need to look after, not just the staff but also the people the charity supports. A member of the group provided an example of their experience of having lost funding for a project and receiving a letter about what their exit plan was, which felt rude, and they provided no support or communication, no offering of tapered funding. It was expressed by the group that if this was the private sector there would be a different approach and attitude.
- Claire (CELCIS) highlights that these conversations have been had in the national leadership group and name had not realised how linked the children's service reform research linked to funding. It was put forward that potentially we need to go a better job at explaining and showing that the policy landscape is cluttered, not aligned, and is not coordinated. One of the discussions that would be helpful here is what does it look like to be more coordinated, what does it look like to be more aligned and where do we think the priorities they should rely on be.
- Amy (Parenting Across Scotland) adds the potential for the forum to look at other parts of the country and learn from their experiences. Amy gave the example of longer-term funding opportunities in Wales with five or six years of funding. Amy furthers this by identifying the close links and connections members have with other organisations such as Children in Wales where we can learn how it works in their context. It was agreed that the Welsh Model is something to consider and potentially leverage more, with reflections that Wales look like they have progressed further than Scotland recently. Including bold policy such as introducing the idea of self-directed support into their NHS Budget.
- Another discussion was had regarding the narrative surrounding the UK Elections, with a focus being on reducing tax rather than necessary spending. It was identified that while grants are reduced or stay the same, the need is going up. This is because local authorities have been slashing additional support for learning services. It was

made clear that this is not an argument between statutory and voluntary funding as both are needed and complement each other. However, this is the impact if you cut funding for children services wherever it comes from. It was stated that the public sector and the voluntary sector win if both funded well and lose if pitched against each other.

- There was a further point made about whether it is possible to break out of the current cycle, which has the potential to last for a long time. Could the relationship be re-looked at with a private body to mediate these relationships. Allowing organisations to have relationships with ministers, rather than protecting ministers through officials. Officials who may not have the incentive to learn the environment of running a business effectively.
- The lottery was brought up in the discussion regarding their work with The Kings Fund and GSK. The lottery has funded work in England and were discussing longer pieces of funding and provided examples of looking into priorities and then bringing together health, social care and the third sector to talk about the problems and everyone was equal partners. It was identified that this might be something that could be discussed and looked at by the forum.
- David (Children in Scotland) informed the group that part of the reason for meeting with SCVO along with Jude was about aligning better with SCVO's messages which most of the group agree with. David highlighted the importance of telling the sector's stories and referred back to the example given regarding how many hours had been put into a funding application, which was really impactful. SCVO had mentioned a case study element to paint a picture of the story and experiences of the sector which currently the sector seems to struggle to do effectively. This work could be looked alongside other works such as what policy coherence looks like for example. David informed the group that he and Jude will be meeting with SCVO again as they have a planning session.
- Amy added in response to the third question that it would be positive for the forum to continue to proactively engage on the funding streams such as CYPFEI & ALEC/CYPFAL, although not all members receive this fund. As there is no other mechanism out there to come together to discuss this and it is extremely beneficial.

Jude finished the discussion and let the group know that there is further work to be done to think about the structure, the outcome and the influence. Jude further added that as a group we do have power, emphasising that the UNCRC is going to be incorporated, Jude reflected that it is sometimes easy to concentrate on the stuff that is not working and that can feel disempowering.

6. AOB

Jude provided the opportunity for the group to share any information they wished the group to know and to be shared in the minutes.

- Rhona informed the group that Starcatchers were launching their research and a suite of resources they have created around listening to the voices of babies, using their technologies. The whole idea is that it enables people from other sectors to use this as a means for their work.

Rhona informed the group that they will be looking to be holding a bigger conference in November around babies rights, where they will be specifically looking at how we enable babies to have their rights realised.

[Click here to access the report and resources.](#)

- The Scottish Youth Parliament turned 25 years old! Since their founding a quarter of a century ago, MSYPs have led the way as part of their aim to make Scotland the best place in the world for young people to grow up.

[Click here to listen to a message from the SYP Board Chair Ellie Craig MSYP](#)

- Scottish Women's Aid are currently recruiting a National Policy Lead and Marsha asked the group to spread the word to anyone that would be interested.

[Click here for more information.](#)

- Rights of the Child UK Conference is taking place in Edinburgh on the 17th September. All the children's rights organisations from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Wales, and Jersey will be in attendance and Juliet is really keen for as many to come along as possible.

[Click here for more information.](#)

- The National Care Service Conversations about children's services continue and will continue for some time. Ben has raised this as the implications of the different options are very significant to anyone who provides any form of children's service. However, Ben notes that children's rights have not yet come up in any of the discussions.

List of Actions:

Action: Jude will continue to follow up regarding CYPFEI & ALEC and CYPFAL

Action: Hannah will change the date of the next Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum meeting to avoid clashing with the Rights of the Child UK Conference.