

Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum 2024



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 and takes a proactive and evidence-based approach to improving children's lives at a national level. The Forum also seeks to identify where it can add value to work that is already underway across the sector.

"The Forum offers opportunities to engage with Ministers and other speakers; to debate key issues with colleagues; to shape joint responses; and, at times, to influence Scottish Government thinking on future policy, legislation, or funding."

Former Forum member

A former Forum member shares their first-hand experience of participating in the Forum. [Click here to read.](#)

Governance

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

The Forum meets at least four times per year and requires members to leave their organisation 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 2021 elections, the Forum has been working on four priority areas with lead member(s) assigned to each area. These priority area leads will remain on the Forum to ensure a degree of continuity for the work. The priority areas are:

- Reducing Child Poverty
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing
- Outcomes budgeting
- Family Support.



The key topics and discussions from each Forum meeting will be shared in a summary document which will be accessible via the Forum webpage. [Click here to access.](#)

Membership

The Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum comprises Children in Scotland members and is a combination of elected and non-elected members.

Non-elected members:




- Coalition of Care Providers in Scotland (CCPS) retain three places on the Forum. The delegates for these places are decided by CCPS
- The Health and Social Care Alliance retain three places on the Forum. The delegates for these places are decided by The Alliance
- COSLA retains one place on the Forum
- The Director of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) retains one place on the Forum
- The Third Sector Interface Network retains 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
- Sub-group leads retain their place on the Forum.

The elected members are selected on a thematic basis. The themes have been chosen to represent Children in Scotland's diverse membership. These themes include:

- Education
- Help and Support, including health and wellbeing, and ASN
- Early years, early learning and childcare, and families
- Parents
- Equalities.

For more information on the Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum contact the Policy, Participation and Projects Team: pppteam@childreninscotland.org.uk

Children's Sector Strategic and Policy Forum Membership 2024:

Name	Organisation	
Judith Turbyne <i>Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>Chair</i>	Children in Scotland	
SallyAnn Kelly <i>Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>CCPS Representative</i>	Aberlour	
Fiona Steel <i>National Director for Scotland</i> <i>CCPS Representative</i>	Action for Children	

Name	Organisation	
Marianne Tyler <i>Senior Development Officer</i> <i>ALLIANCE Representative</i>	ALLIANCE	 ALLIANCE
Jennifer Wallace <i>Director of Policy and Evidence</i>	Carnegie Trust	 collective wellbeing Carnegie UK
Marsaili Fraser <i>Head of Policy</i>	Cattanach	 Cattanach Better starts Better futures
Claire Burns <i>Director</i>	CELCIS	 CELCIS Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection
Rami Okasha <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	CHAS	 Children's Hospices Across Scotland
David Mackay <i>Head of Policy, Projects and Participation</i>	Children in Scotland Supporting the Third Sector Project	 Supporting the Third Sector Project
Douglas Guest <i>Development Manager</i>	Circle	 circle Supporting families in Scotland Improving the lives of children by strengthening families
COSLA Representative	COSLA	 COSLA
John Dickie <i>Director</i>	CPAG Scotland	
Jane Brumpton <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Early Years Scotland	 Early Years Scotland Investing in our youngest children
Catriona Campbell <i>Head of Education</i>	East Park School	
Allie Cherry-Byrnes <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Fast Forward	 fast forward

Name	Organisation	
Mark Hutchison <i>Children's Services Development Manager TSI Children's Services Network Representative</i>	Fife Voluntary Action	
Martin Dorchester <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Includem	There for young people 24/7 
Dr. Mhairi Crawford <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	LGBT Youth Scotland	
Louise Licznarski <i>Founder</i>	Little Bugs Nursery	
Mark Ballard <i>Head of Policy and Influencing for Scotland ALLIANCE Representative</i>	National Deaf Children's Society	
Satwat Rehman <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	OPFS	
Jenny Miller <i>Chief Executive Officer ALLIANCE Representative</i>	PAMIS	
Amy Woodhouse <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Parenting across Scotland	
Marguerite Hunter Blair <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Play Scotland	
Graeme McAlister <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Scottish Childminding Association	
Marsha Scott <i>Chief Executive</i>	Scottish Women's Aid	

Name	Organisation	
Ben Farrugia <i>Director</i>	Social Work Scotland	
MSYP Representative & Jamie Dunlop <i>Chief Executive</i>	Scottish Youth Parliament	
Jo Derrick <i>Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>CCPS Representative</i>	Staf	
Rhona Matheson <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Starcatchers	
Juliet Harris <i>Director</i>	Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	