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1. Ministerial Vision for Scotland's Children

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/childrenservices/vision>

Safe: protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community.

Healthy: having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare, and support in learning to make healthy and safe choices.

Achieving: being supported and guided in their learning and in the development of their skills, confidence and self-esteem at home, at school, and in the community.

Nurtured: having a nurturing place to live, in a family setting with additional help if needed or, where this is not possible, in a suitable care setting.

Active: having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport which contribute to healthy growth and development, both at home and in the community.

Respected*: having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions which affect them.

Responsible*: having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles in their schools and communities and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision.

Included: having help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn.

* In testing and applying the Ministerial vision within the Getting it right approach, we are exploring the separating out of Respected and Responsible as a way of encouraging understanding among children and young people.

2. Getting it right for every child

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/childrenservices/girfec>

A national approach to helping children and young people in Scotland. The approach sets out guidelines, and possible new legislation, that will help families and professionals to work better together with children and young people, and to give children and families more say in the help that they get.

Getting it Right for Every Child: Proposals for Action

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0013270.pdf>

3. Its everyones job to make sure Im alright, 2002

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47007/0023992.pdf>

Action plan to improve the protection of Scotland's children in the next decade.

4. Child Protection Reform Programme

CPRP, its overarching goals being to improve protection of children at risk of neglect and abuse and reduce the numbers of children who need protection. The first half of the CPRP delivered a range of initiatives including the Children's Charter, the new child protection Framework for Standards which applies to all agencies and the strengthening of the 30 multi-disciplinary Child Protection Committees across Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/17834>

5. Protecting Children and Young People: The Charter & Framework for Standards

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/17834/10245>

The Charter sets out what children and young people need and expect to help protect them when they are in danger of being, or already have been, harmed by another person. The Standards build on these Charter statements and the pledges made to help deliver better, more joined-up, child focused services for vulnerable children and young people.

6. For Scotland's Children

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/education/fcsr-00.asp>

Several recent reports have highlighted the need for better systems to share information (eg the Child Protection Audit and Review and the Victoria Climbié Inquiry) and this forms part of the action points to emerge from For Scotland's Children.

7. A Curriculum for Excellence

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/11/20178/45862>

Published in November 2004, clearly set out that children and young people should be successful learners; confident individuals; effective contributors to society and responsible citizens.

8. National Care Standards

The Care Commission regulates and inspects all care services in Scotland using the National Care Standards to ensure that service users receive the same standard of care wherever they live in Scotland. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/17652>

National Care Standards have been published for the following services for children and young people:

- Adoption agencies

- Care homes for children and young people
- Childcare agencies
- Early education and childcare up to the age of 16
- Foster care and family placement services
- School care accommodation services

9. Children (Scotland) Act 1995

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga_19950036_en_1.htm

This sets out a range of ways in which children in Scotland should be supported, protected, accommodated and cared for. It also identifies the circumstances in which a child may be accommodated by a local authority. This includes situations where 'no-one has parental responsibility for' a child under 16 (Section 25) and the manner in which accommodation is provided for children looked after by a local authority (Section 26). Furthermore, this Act also seeks to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, up to the age of 18, who are in need (Section 22). Among the duties that the authority has towards a child so accommodated are to: safeguard and promote the child's welfare; promote contact with parents; take account of the child's views; give consideration to the child's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.

Part of the **Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000** applies to Scotland and stipulates that a child who was previously looked after and accommodated is entitled to financial support from the local authority. Under the **Children Leaving Care Act of 2000**, social services departments must provide support for those leaving care, ensuring their continuing welfare. The Hillingdon judgement extended this responsibility to include unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Although the Hillingdon judgement was a landmark case in England, the great majority of the Children Act 1989, including the provisions for looked after and accommodated children, does not apply to Scotland.

The Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Regulations 2003 also require local authorities to provide a range of other preparation, planning and support measures for young people

The main relevant statutes are the **Education (Scotland) Act 1980**, with subsequent amendments, and the **Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000**. For instance, any education authority has general powers to provide education (including nursery education) to anyone living within their area, while children below the statutory age limit have a right to receive education. CARIS web-site
<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/caris/>

10. Commissioner for Children and Young People

The **Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003** established the role of Commissioner. The first incumbent took up post in April 2004. The Commissioner has a duty to promote and safeguard the rights of children in Scotland up to the age of 18 (or 21 if they have ever been looked after by a local authority).

<http://www.sccyp.org/>

11. GCC Children's Services Plan 2005-2008

http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Care_Support/Families_Children/childrenservicesplan.htm

Integrated Children's Services Plans have a vital role in ensuring that local authorities in Scotland and other relevant agencies and organisations come together to plan services and support for children and families in each area in a co-ordinated way. This is done following a shared local vision and making effective use of combined knowledge and resources.

Children's Services Plan should link with other relevant local plans, including the child component of the local Health Plan, the local Education Improvement Plan, and the wider Community Plan.

12. The Children's Hearing System

One of the overarching principles that apply to decision making in Children's Hearings is that the child has a voice. www.scra.gov.uk

13. Child Strategy Statement

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/social/css-00.asp>

14. Moving Forward: A Strategy for Improving Young People's Chances Through Youth Work

http://www.article12.org/pdf/Moving_Forward_Youth_Work_Strategy.pdf

National Youth Work Strategy
Scottish Executive March 2007

15. GCC SWS Admission, Care Planning and Review Procedures for Looked After and Accommodated Children and Young People 2004

<http://connect.glasgow.gov.uk/NR/rdoonlyres/3E1B0C9D-974A-4F14-83B6-9811E8DE8E2E/0/LAACPro04revised.doc>

16. References

1. This is a good place to live and think about the future...The needs and experiences of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Scotland, published by the SRC March 2006
2. Scottish Executive website
3. GCC website
4. CARIS website legal section