



**Scotland's Commissioner for
Children and Young People**

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14th October 2010

Dear M Ferguson,

Thank you for your information request dated 23rd September 2010.

I saw a news paper article mentioning the Right Blether project and have read more about it on your website. Could I have a copy of the detailed project plan?

As requested I am enclosing a copy of the project plan at the end of this letter.

I would be grateful if you would please note that 'A Right Blether' is a means for the Commissioner to fulfil two of his statutory duties under the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 (CCYP Act). Under section 6 of the Act the Commissioner must take reasonable steps to consult children and young people on the work to be undertaken by the Commissioner. 'A Right Blether' is a means by which the Commissioner can gather the opinions and experiences of children and young people throughout Scotland on what's important to them. The findings from 'A Right Blether' will directly influence the Commissioner's programme of work over the next four years. In tandem to this it is also being used as a key mechanism for promoting awareness and understating of children's rights with particular regard to the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) in accordance with section 4 of the CCYP Act.

I hope this information is helpful, however, if you are not satisfied with this response, you are entitled in the first instance to request a review of the decision made by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. Should you wish to request a review, please write to Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People at the above address within 40 working days of receiving this response. When making a request for review can you please give your name, an address for correspondence (this can be an email address), and details of your original request and say why you want a review. Once informed of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People's decision, if you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for an appeal. Contact details are:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews,
Fife, KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610
Email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Further information about requesting a review or making an appeal can be found on the website of the Scottish Information Commissioner

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/HowToAppeal/>

Should you require any further assistance concerning this request please contact me on 0131 558 3733.

Regards
Gillian Munro
Information Officer

Project Plan



“Success will look like a Scotland where it is reality for **all** children to

- **Understand** their rights
- **Experience** their rights
- **Exercise** their rights

... ***every single day*** of their lives”



Tam Baitha

1. KEY FUNCTIONS of ‘a RIGHT blether’

WHY IS SCOTLAND’S COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL CONSULTATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

‘A right BLETHER’, the Commissioner’s national consultation with children and young people, is delivering the functions and duties of his role as outlined in the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 see appendix 1. These include:

- **Promoting and safeguarding rights of children and young people**

Including through the:

- Promotion of awareness and understanding of the rights of children and young people
- Promotion of best practice by service providers

- **United Nations Convention and equal opportunities**

Including by:

- Having regard to, and encouraging others to have regard to, the views of children and young people on all matters affecting them, due allowance being made for age and maturity.

- **Involving children and young people**

Including by:

- Ensuring that children and young people are made aware of—
 - (i) the functions of the Commissioner;
 - (ii) the ways in which they may communicate with the Commissioner; and
 - (iii) the ways in which the Commissioner may respond to any issues which they raise;
- (b) consulting children and young people on the work to be undertaken by the Commissioner; and
- (c) consulting organisations working with and for children and young people on the work to be undertaken by the Commissioner.

In carrying out the duties under subsections (1) and (2) the Commissioner must pay particular attention to groups of children and young people who do not have other adequate means by which they can make their views known.

2. The AIMS of ‘a RIGHT blether’

Through ‘a RIGHT blether’ Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People will deliver an effective and wide reaching National Consultation with 50 000 or more children and young people under the age of 18 years (or 21 if the young person has had experience of Scotland’s care system)

The National Consultation aims to capture and utilise the views, ideas and advice offered by children and young people to inform a section of Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People’s work plan 2011 – 2015

The National Consultation will also:-

- Raise awareness and understanding of Children’s Rights – and specifically the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 12, with children, young people and adults across all sectors of Scottish civic society
- Raise awareness and understanding of the purpose and role of Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People with children, young people and adults across all sectors of Scottish civic society
- Be a model of national good practice in the delivery of highest quality participative practices with children and young people in Scotland, particularly with vulnerable groups
- Highlight, celebrate and share the good practice of national and local organisations and services in their implementation of the articles within the UNCRC and in particular Article 12
- Ensure that a wide range of effective professional partnerships are strengthened and developed to ensure SCCYP has ongoing direct engagement with as wide a range of children and young people from across Scotland for the period 2011 - 2015

3. KEY STAGES - 'a RIGHT blether'

Between September 2009 and 31st March 2011 the key stages of 'a RIGHT blether' are being planned and implemented.

2009				2010												2011			
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
plan																			
						participat e													
								create											
											meet								
														vote					
														celebrat e					
															analyse/decid e				
																		evaluat e	
																			report & begin implementation
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR

4. Success Criteria - 'a RIGHT blether'

KEY STAGE 1

COORDINATOR: Rachel Edgar

PREPARATION – What does success look like?	
Resources production, materials, prep for receptions	
Rights Resource Pack materials Shape of Programme Promotional Resources Partnerships and receptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights Resource Packs for 11years and under and for 12 years+ created with expert partners and piloted • Shape of participation elements of 'A RIGHT blether' developed and agreed • Core promotional resources developed, designed and created • Core resources planned and/or created in as widely accessible formats as possible for budget • Key partnerships and roles negotiated and agreed across the children's and youth sectors and Scotland's 32 Local Authorities • 7 receptions to promote UNCRC and working partnerships with SCCYP to implement 'a RIGHT blether' planned • Widest range of potential partners invited to attend • Receptions promoted widely across a range of relevant sectors

KEY STAGE 2

COORDINATOR: Katie Brown

PARTICIPATE – What does success look like?	
Receptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 reception events held across Scotland • 100 attendees on average at each • Wide ministerial support gained and commitment to UNCRC promoted through them publically • Wide academic/specialist support gained and requirement to implement articulated through them • Approx 100 sign ups per event achieved • Wide range of National Children's and Youth sector organisations signed up • Minimum 10 Schools in each area signed up • Minimum 5 youth or children's other organisation or services signed up in each area • All Schools in receipt of Resource Pack • All CLD services in receipt of Resource Packs • Blether Website built and used by CYP and adults
Workshops	
DVD	
Launch	
Promotional resources	
Website	

SYP Manifesto Partnership Children's Parliament Project Vote card content Workshop Evaluation DVD Positive Support & sign up across National orgs and all LA's Children and Young People at the heart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 CYP engagements with Blether educational and info resources MINIMUM • 500 Adult engagements with Blether educational and info resources MINIMUM • Extra resource packs and blether promo info requested • Schools engagement to prepare for Blether participation @ 40 across 32 LA areas • All Directors of Education (MINIMUM) visited by Commissioner as prep for area participation • All Directors of Education (MINIMUM) signed up to Blether • Range of National and Local Conferences and events attended to promote Blether MINIMUM 20 • Role of Commissioner articulated at each event attended • Children's Rights and UNCRC promoted at each event attended • Promo Blether Resources created together with CYP • CYP identified to monitor BLETHER support evaluation processes independently • Vote building process developed with key partner organisations • Consultation launched with 200 CYP from across Scotland through GLOW network • Receptions and Launch media coverage in all relevant areas and nationally • Manifesto creation undertaken in partnership with SYP – 2000 participants minimum • Creation of Children's priorities undertaken with Children's Parliament featuring different areas across Scotland – 400 participants minimum • Workshop with CYP held and formal voting framework agreed from findings from Manifesto and Children's projects • Young people involved in delivering key stages of Blether Programme
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KEY STAGE 3

COORDINATOR: Sarah-Louise Davies

CREATE	What does success look like?
A RIGHT brilliant thing Best practice identified Best practice promoted Best practice learnt from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIGHT brilliant thing promoted across Scotland in schools and out of school environments in a range of ways • Response from minimum 10 schools and 10 other orgs or groups from each of the 32 Local authority areas • Response from minimum 10 specialist groups/organisations supporting CYP • Responses received in a range of different media • Minimum 2 SCCYP special promotions of a RIGHT Brilliant thing examples nationally per month from June 2010 (website/twitter/blog/ozone/media article) • All ages between 5 and 21 represented by submissions • Core themes analysed and report created to inform SCCYP of things children and young people value • Media coverage captured across a range of the 32 LA areas • Minimum 500 CYP involved in offering RIGHT brilliant things – either individually or in groups/classes

Best Practice celebrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right Brilliant Things showcased widely through website and at events • SCCYP formal recognition and reporting to LA Area or organisation of all identified RBT's offered
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KEY STAGE 4

COORDINATOR: Sarah-Louise Davies

MEET	What does success look like?
Tam's Tour and other key engagements with underrepresented or specific groups of children and young people	
Create opportunities for wide range of children and young people from across Scotland to 'Talk with Tam'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tam's official tour stops cover all 32 areas of Scotland • Tam's tour engages with approximately 50 CYP in each area MINIMUM • Minimum 5 GLOW Tour Stops from harder to reach areas • Tam's Tour engages with 5 – 11 year olds and 12+'s and young people up to 21 who have had experience of care system • Tam's tour engages with minimum 10 events specially for and with children and young people with specific challenging life experiences or who face additional barriers to participation
Promote awareness of UNCRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local media coverage for each stage • Tam's tour promotes engagement in SYP's Manifesto survey
Demystify Commissioner role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tam's tour engages SCCYP with a broad range of organisations and partners • Tam's tour promotes and delivers awareness raising information about children's Rights, UNCRC and role of Commissioner
Encourage participation in Vote and Celebrations and in identification of good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local elected members engaged in tour • Local senior officials engaged in tour • MSYP's engaged in tour • MSP's engaged in tour • Tour stops all promoted through website

KEY STAGE 5 COORDINATOR: Cathy Begley

VOTE	What does success look like?
Accredited voting centre sign up and roll out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting resources designed and created • Voting guidance written and placed on website • Voting targets identified for each LA area @ 10% of school aged population across Scotland • Targets successfully communicated and plans for each area to meet them agreed with key contact IN EACH LA area • Minimum of ten voting centres or event in each LA area identified = TOTAL NATIONALLY 320 Minimum • Voting information and cards created to be as fully accessible as possible • 50 000 children and young people engaged in voting experience MINIMUM • 200 Adults engaged in facilitating voting process MINIMUM across Scotland • National Voting Event agreed with Parliament, Government and Ministerial involvement committed • 100 CYP involved in National Voting event • National Media Coverage attained • Results returned to SCCYP by Voting Centre Adult co-ordinators Quality Images taken and given to SCCYP for report and website usage (permissions all signed and agreed)

KEY STAGE 6

COORDINATOR: Sarah-Louise Davies

CELEBRATE	What does success look like?
Encourage and facilitate wide range of Parties/Events to mark the 21st Birthday (coming of age) of the UNCRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthday party Resources designed and created • Birthday party games sheet written and put on website • Birthday party guidance written and put on website • LA's and national organisations informed of local and national targets for participation (LA's x 1 big and 5 smaller) • National Partners minimum – main event • LA's and national organisations commitment to hold parties confirmed • Key equalities groups encouraged to sign up to parties/celebration events • Tam or team member scheduled to attend 5% of parties/celebration events • Party organisers confirm numbers involved • Party organisers ensure images (still or moving) returned to SCCYP for publicity and reporting purposes on www and in reports. All permissions to be signed off and returned to SCCYP also • National Party agreed with key figures in key venue • 100 CYP involved in national Vote event • National media coverage attained

KEY STAGE 7

COORDINATOR: Sheila Hamilton / Gillian Munro / Katie Brown / Sarah-Louise Davies

ANALYSE/DECIDE	What does success look like?
Create vote framework	<p>September residential project featuring outcomes of summer projects, other inputs from across blether linked events and SYPManifesto building, organised and run in partnership with Children's Parliament and Scottish Youth Parliament</p> <p>Voting card framework decided and agreed by participating CYP featuring 4 key areas and 5 priorities in each</p>
Count votes	<p>Voting Centre Co-ordinators return vote count</p> <p>SCCYP access email and postal vote count</p>
Analyse RIGHT brilliant things	<p>Key themes emerging from RIGHT brilliant things analysed and fed into overall report on CYP priorities for SCCYP work plan for next 4 years</p>
Plan A RIGHT BIG BLETHER	<p>Work with CYP and key professional partners including Government (link back to Children's Summit) to plan A RIGHT big blether to involve all 32 areas either physically or digitally</p> <p>Create framework for the event that will allow adults to feedback to children and young people on outcomes and agreements on priorities etc made at Children's Summit and the outcomes on priorities etc identified through BLETHER</p>
Bring Children's/Young People's and Adults views on priorities and way forward together	<p>Create joint plan of action and agree associated monitoring and reporting framework and plan for all stakeholders</p> <p>Finalise CYP informed section of SCCYP work plan</p>
Achieve widespread buy in across Scotland's Civic Society	

KEY STAGE 8

COORDINATOR: Katie Brown

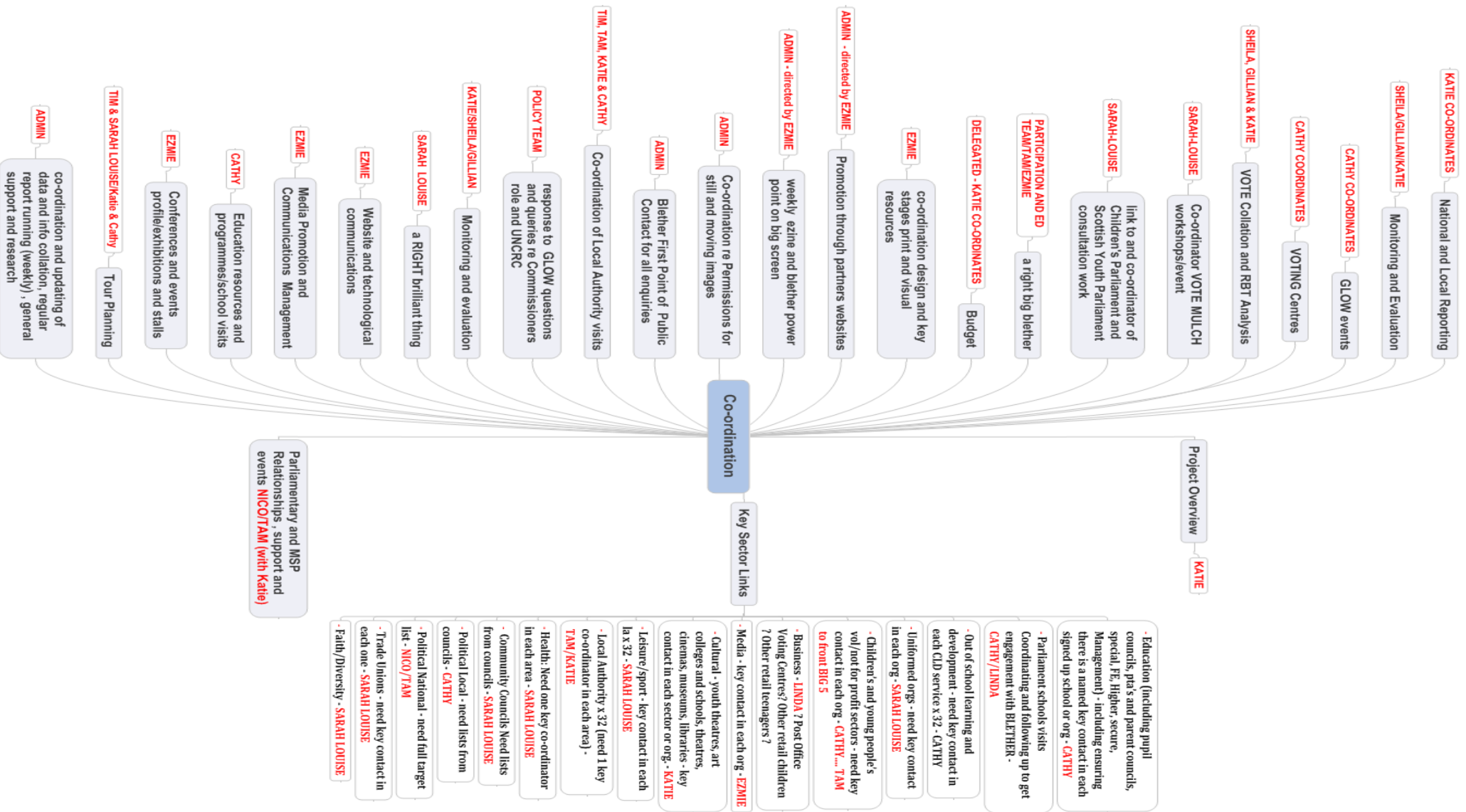
EVALUATE Evaluate against success criteria	What does success look like?
<p>Ask core stakeholders and partners how well BLETHER has achieved its objectives</p> <p>Reflect and Learn from the process to ensure application of new knowledge about consulting meaningfully with wide range of children and young people across Scotland's civic society</p> <p>Ensure CYP's perspective sought on BLETHER performance</p> <p>Reflect and learn from CYP's perspective of how well the BLETHER programme delivered its aims</p> <p>Measure success against core quantitative target</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver evaluation opportunities to all participants and partners • Collect and analyse • Work with CYP to ensure opportunities for their independent monitoring and evaluation of BLETHER processes • Create Learning/Improvement report with strengths and weaknesses identified • Measure against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website support offered, Engagement of Adults and CYP through Blether Website, Interactions across lifetime of BLETHER through receptions, launch, workshops, events, school visits, tour stops, RIGHT brilliant things, Birthday party participation, Voting Participation, Partnership and sign up support offered, participation in RIGHT BIG blether • Voting targets achieved • Sustainable commitment partnerships achieved <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LA's 2. Voluntary Organisations 3. Political Champions for Children's Rights • Awareness levels increased re UNCRC and SCCYP

KEY STAGE 9

COORDINATOR: Katie Brown

REPORT & BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION – What does success look like?	
Report back to all LA's and National Bodies report to Parliament report back to Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 32 reports to all LA's highlighting local priorities and themes from RIGHT brilliant things• 32 identified reporting channels to local CYP agreed with LA's• 32 reports to SCCYP from all LA's on annual basis for next 4 years outlining responses and action• Reports to organisations involved in specific activity around communities of CYP with specific experience/challenges highlighting priorities and themes from RIGHT brilliant things• Reports from organisations above on annual basis for next 4 years outlining progress and action against areas identified• SCCYP performance reporting to stakeholders (including Parliament) and CYP against CYP informed areas of SCCYP work plan over next 4 years

5. OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES - MAP



Appendix 1:

Excerpt from Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 Section 1, 4, 5 and 6

Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 (Section 1)

The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 26th March 2003 and received Royal Assent on 1st May 2003

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to provide for the establishment and functions of a Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland; and for connected purposes.

(4) Promoting and safeguarding rights

- (1) The general function of the Commissioner is to promote and safeguard the rights of children and young people.
- (2) In exercising that general function the Commissioner is, in particular, to—
 - (a) promote awareness and understanding of the rights of children and young people;
 - (b) keep under review the law, policy and practice relating to the rights of children and young people with a view to assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of such law, policy and practice;
 - (c) promote best practice by service providers; and
 - (d) promote, commission, undertake and publish research on matters relating to the rights of children and young people.

(5) United Nations Convention and equal opportunities

- (1) In exercising functions under this Act, the Commissioner must comply with subsections (2) to (4).
- (2) The Commissioner must have regard to any relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

(3) The Commissioner must, in particular—

(a) regard, and encourage others to regard, the best interests of children and young people as a primary consideration; and

(b) have regard to, and encourage others to have regard to, the views of children and young people on all matters affecting them, due allowance being made for age and maturity.

(4) The Commissioner must act in a manner which encourages equal opportunities and, in particular, the observance of the equal opportunity requirements.

(6) Involving children and young people

(1) The Commissioner must encourage the involvement of children and young people in the work of the Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner must, in particular, take reasonable steps to—

(a) ensure that children and young people are made aware of—

(i) the functions of the Commissioner;

(ii) the ways in which they may communicate with the Commissioner; and

(iii) the ways in which the Commissioner may respond to any issues which they raise;

(b) consult children and young people on the work to be undertaken by the Commissioner; and

(c) consult organisations working with and for children and young people on the work to be undertaken by the Commissioner.

(3) In carrying out the duties under subsections (1) and (2) the Commissioner must pay particular attention to groups of children and young people who do not have other adequate means by which they can make their views known.

(4) The Commissioner must prepare and keep under review a strategy for involving children and young people in the work of the Commissioner in accordance with this section.

Appendix 2

Definition of a 'blether' interaction

Anything that covers the three points below

- A) Promotes and raises awareness of the uncr to adults or to children and young people – or both
- B) Promotes and raises awareness of the role, person, office and core functions and responsibilities of Scotland's commissioner for children and young people
- C) Promotes knowledge of and participation in one or more of the stages 'a right blether'

Therefore we need to count...

- The adults (split into teachers/other professionals/parents (carers)/politicians (msyp's, msp's and local elected members)
- The children and young people (split into 11yrs and under and 12yrs and over)

...who are in receipt of any such intervention across the whole span of 'a right blether' from initial receptions to end of the project.

This could be either directly through the activity of people in the sccyp office or through the activity of those 'partners' who have signed up to work with us...so we need to ensure we are linking/connecting with them on ongoing basis to capture their numbers. This interaction could be through:-

- Presentations including watching the dvd
- Participating in holding or enjoying UNCRC Birthday Celebrations
- Hosting or learning about BLETHER through an exhibition
- Taking part in or organising Tam's Tour Roadshows
- Inserts into conference pack
- Taking part in or supporting CYP to take part in RIGHT big blether
- Reader age of articles and ezines
- Professional and political inputs into BLETHER events
 - Requests for information
 - Delivering or taking part in BLETHER workshops
 - Listening of BLETHERSpeeches
 - Delivering or taking part in special BLETHER projects or

activities

- Hosting or taking part in a school visit from TAM or team
- Hits on the blether website
- Offering Tam a RIGHT Brilliant thing or supporting CYP to do so
- Voting support or taking part in a voting session



Overall Summary

‘a RIGHT blether’ will fulfil the functions and duties of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 Section 1, 4, 5 and 6, and in the process build new and robust strategic networks and partnerships between children, young people and adults from across Scotland’s civic society and SCCYP that will strengthen its participation, engagement and awareness functions throughout Scotland's 32 Local Authority areas, the children’s and young people’s sectors and beyond.

