

# The Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland

The new qualification for Residential Child  
Care Workers, Supervisors and Managers

## The Background

The Standard was developed as a result of the findings of the National Residential Child Care Initiative (NRCCI):

*“Given the increasingly complex needs of children and young people and the professional tasks that require high-level academic abilities, the workforce group believes that a minimum level of education at SCQF level 9 for workers, supervisors and managers would best equip them to undertake their work most effectively”*

‘Higher Aspirations, Brighter Futures - National Residential Child Care Initiative (NRCCI) Report 2009’.

In response to this recommendation:

- In 2012, the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) led consultation with workforce, employers, learning providers, young people and Scottish Government.
- Also in 2012, Stephen Farrier and Nikolaos Bizas concluded their research for the SSSC: *Residential Child Care Qualification (A Research into Context and Focus)*.
- The Standard was developed by a strategic group chaired by Ann Houston, then Chief Executive of Children 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Aileen Campbell, Minister for Children and Young People, approved the Standard in January 2013.

## The Vision

The Standard outlines the vision that all those working with children in residential care as workers, supervisors and managers should be:

- competent and confident
- able to work in partnership with others to support and improve the wellbeing of children and young people
- have the right knowledge, skills and values
- respect and promote the rights of children and young people
- be respected and recognised as champions for Scotland's children and young people who are looked after
- influence policy and practice at national and local levels
- be recognised as an integral part of the wider children and young people's workforce.

## The Way Forward

- ❖ The SSSC is working in partnership with colleagues from the Scottish Government, the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELGIS), the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), education and training providers and representatives of colleagues working in the residential child care sector.
- ❖ The SQA has begun the work to develop a Professional Development Award in partnership with colleagues from further education colleges, CELGIS, SSSC and care providers.
- ❖ Higher education providers have met on a number of occasions with SSSC and others to explore the delivery of university accredited courses.
- ❖ Regular meetings will continue to take place between all partners, to ensure an overview of progress and enable consistency to develop across the country.

## Further Information

The Standard for Residential Child Care in Scotland document can be found on the SSSC website:

<http://www.sssc.uk.com/about-the-sssc/multimedia-library/publications/70-education-and-training/3128-the-standard-for-residential-child-care-in-scotland-2013>

The research, Residential Child Care Qualification (A Research into Context and Focus) 2012 by Stephen Farrier and Nikolaos Bizas can be obtained from the SSSC.

The list below shows the membership of the groups which were involved in the development of the benchmark standard for Residential Child Care.

### Membership of the Children and Young People Representative Group

Katie Brown	Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
Amy Copsey	Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare
Lee Dickson	South Ayrshire Council
Grant Gilroy	Who Cares? Scotland
Ann McSorley	Scottish Social Services Council
Joan Menmuir	Consultant
Bill Thomson	Consultant
Patricia Walls	Kibble Education and Care Centre

### Membership of the Strategic Group

David Baird	Kibble Education and Care Centre
Mary Boyle	NHS Education Scotland
John Brown	NHS Health Scotland
Kathy Cameron	COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities)
John Davis	University of Edinburgh
Lee Dickson	South Ayrshire Council
Becky Everett	Care Inspectorate
Louise Gaddi	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Neil Gentleman	Scottish Government
Heather Gibson	Quality Assurance Agency
Alison Harold	Scottish Social Services Council
Marc Hendrikson	Care Inspectorate
Anne Houston	(Chair) Children 1 <sup>st</sup>
Dorothy Johnston	University of the West of Scotland
Liz Lafferty	Social Work Scotland (previously ADSW)

Tony Mackie	City of Glasgow Council
Graham McPheat	CEL CIS
Ann McSorley	Scottish Social Services Council
Joan Menmuir	Consultant
Mark Smith	University of Edinburgh
Bill Thomson	Consultant

**Membership of the Technical Expert Sub-Group:**

Janine Bolger	CEL CIS, Robert Gordon University
David Baird	Kibble Education and Care Centre
Pamela Fotheringham	Adam Smith College
Louise Gaddi	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Heather Gibson	Quality Assurance Agency
Alison Harold	Scottish Social Services Council
Susan Hepburn	Donaldson's School
Anne Houston	(Chair) Children 1st
Dorothy Johnston	University of West of Scotland
John Kellagher	Aberlour
Peter Laverie	Cardonald College
Tony Mackie	Glasgow City Council
Graham McPheat	CEL CIS
Ann McSorley	(Minutes) Scottish Social Services Council
Joan Menmuir	Consultant
Frances Scott	Scottish Social Services Council
Francis Scott	Aspire Scotland - Education through Care
Mark Smith	University of Edinburgh
Irene Stevens	VQ provider
Bill Thomson	Consultant