

Title of report	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child Rights Report
Public/confidential	Public
Action	For approval
Summary/purpose of report	To demonstrate what we have done over the last three years to promote or give effect to children's rights in Scotland and what we will do over the next three years. This plan aims to meet our obligation under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
Recommendations	<p>To approve the plan, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the action taken over the last three years the action plan for the next three years. <p>The Council is asked to approve subject to our incorporating outstanding stakeholder.</p>
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Link to Strategic Plan	The information in this plan links to all Outcomes in the Strategic Plan 2020-2023.
Link to the Risk Register	<p>Risk 1: We fail to ensure that our system of regulation meets the needs of people who use services and workers.</p> <p>Risk 3: We fail to meet corporate governance, external scrutiny and legal obligations.</p> <p>Risk 5: We fail to provide value to our stakeholders and demonstrate our impact.</p>

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)	<p>1. An EIA was developed.</p> <p>This plan exists to meet a statutory duty and highlights work that has already been carried out across the SSSC to promote children's rights. The actions proposed for the next reporting period will require EIAs during their development. While this plan itself does not eliminate discrimination or advance equality of opportunity, the actions detailed within it do. The plan does however address the need to foster good relations as it highlights the work carried out by the SSSC to advance children's rights in Scotland.</p>
Documents attached	Appendix 1: SSSC UNCRC Child Rights Report
Background papers	None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 requires public authorities to report how they promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The plan, known as a Children's Rights Report, is due at the end of each three-year period from 1 April 2017. This is our first plan; it sets out what we have already achieved and the action we will take over the next three years.
- 1.2 We ask Council to approve the plan, in particular:
- the action taken over the last three years (pg 6–31)
 - the action plan for the next three years (from pg 32).

We ask for approval subject to incorporating outstanding stakeholder feedback (see section 5).

2. REPORT STRUCTURE

- 2.1 The nine UNCRC clusters give an accessible and easily understandable structure for the plan. The main body of our plan will set out what work has been done in relation to each cluster and a plan for the next three years.
- 2.2 The plan includes the following:
- a case study of our role as social services regulator. This demonstrates the numerous ways our work in this area promotes children's rights. For example, protecting children from violence, ensuring the workforce is aware of and compliant with children's rights and protecting vulnerable witnesses
 - how we address the general measures of implementation of the UNCRC such as through conducting Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments as part of our EIA process
 - how we promote the general principles of the UNCRC, for example through our role as the sector skills council for social services in Scotland
 - the work we do to ensure children's civil rights and freedoms are secured in Scotland
 - the work we done by the regulation department to prevent violence against children
 - the initiatives and resources we have to ensure that our young workforce is given every chance to succeed in their careers.

- 2.3 Our UNCRC children's rights report will complement but be distinct from our Care Experienced Young People Plan. They will share the same design layout.
- 2.4 Many of the actions in the plan overlap with those in the Care Experienced Young People Plan, however, some of the distinct actions for the next reporting period are:
- further training in relation to vulnerable witnesses
 - maintaining our Investors in Young People award
 - working with the Carers Managers Network to establish the current and long-term need of the workforce.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There may be some implications arising from this plan's actions. All departments must consider how they can address statutory obligations in their work and been consulted on the development of this plan and these actions. The remit of the internal Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group has been revised to include monitoring the implementation of this plan.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 s2(1) requires that public authorities publish their children's rights report as soon as practicable after the end of each three-year period. The first period ended in March 2020.
- 4.2 The Scottish Government recently introduced a bill to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law to the fullest extent possible. The reporting requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 is likely to be incorporated into the UNCRC Act. Our approach to reporting on children's rights may need to evolve as the legislative landscape in Scotland changes. This is reflected in the plan.

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 The plan has been developed following engagement with the Executive Management Team (EMT), Operational Management Team (OMT) and staff from throughout SSSC.
- 5.2 We have asked the following external groups for feedback. Due to competing priorities for our stakeholders we have some responses still in progress. We are keen to allow these stakeholders the time to be able to respond to our report and some timescales have been extended to allow this to happen.

Group	Status
Children and Young People Commissioner	Complete
COSLA	Complete
Care Inspectorate Consultation	Complete
Social Work Scotland	Complete
The Promise	In progress
Who Cares? Scotland	Meeting arranged
Scottish Government	Scheduled for 23/10/2020 Rearranged for 11/11/2020

6. IMPACT ON PEOPLE USING SOCIAL SERVICES AND CARERS

- 6.1 The process of compiling our children's rights report has given us an opportunity to look at the work that we do to support young people who use social services, as well as their carers. The plan lets children and young people, and their carers know that the work we do seeks to uphold their rights and ensure that Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The SSSC's Children's Rights Report sets out what we have done over the past three years to promote children's rights in Scotland and the actions we will take over the next reporting period in relation to promoting children's rights. The Council is asked to approve the plan.