Connecting Scotland: how Scottish organisations engage internationally

Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland is pleased to contribute to the above call for evidence. Children in Scotland is the national network organisation for the children’s sector in Scotland with 440 member bodies in the public, voluntary and independent sectors. CiS is an active member of Eurochild, the European children’s rights network funded by the European Commission, and is the National Partner Network for Scotland. Staff members are active in Eurochild’s working groups and campaigns. We are a founding partner and the English language publisher of the Children in Europe magazine, a professional journal for the children’s sector workforce produced in 15 languages by 22 partners.

CiS has previously led on projects financially supported by the European Commission, such as the Working for Inclusion programme which explored with 14 other countries the role of the early years workforce in addressing poverty and inclusion and our involvement in sharing the learning and progress from the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence across Europe amongst many others. Our European contacts have enabled us to partner children’s organisations in other European countries in funding applications.

We have hosted and organised study visits to Scotland for professional groups and for Scottish groups to a broad range of other countries including, Norway, Finland, Italy, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark and many others. We have highlighted international good practice in our publications such as Northern Lights (Scandinavia) and Siyabonana (South Africa).

Our reputation in Europe and beyond is good and we have been invited to present at European and international events such as the International Conference on Family and Society (Barcelona, September 2014) and the European Expert Meeting on Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care (Berlin, June 2015). We also represent Scottish Government on the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education.

I hope this is helpful.

Jacqueline Lamb
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

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Children in Scotland is Scotland’s national agency for organisations and professionals working with and for children, young people and their families. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that policies and services and other provisions are of the highest possible quality and are able to meet the needs of a diverse society. Children in Scotland represents over 470 members, including 90% of Scottish Local Authorities, all major voluntary, statutory and private children’s agencies, professional organisations, as well as many other smaller community groups and children’s services. It is linked with similar agencies in other parts of the UK and the European Union.

The work of Children in Scotland encompasses extensive information, policy, research and practice development programmes. The agency works closely with MSPs, the Scottish Government, local authorities and practitioners. It services a number of groups such as: the Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Children and Young People (with YouthLink Scotland) and the National Voluntary Children’s Forum. Children in Scotland also hosts Enquire - the national advice service for additional support for learning, and Resolve:ASL, Scotland’s largest independent education mediation service.