

Highland Children's Forum

April 2016



Highland Children's Forum Policy Work

HCF was pleased that Elected Members took the budget decision to maintain Service Level Agreements for 2016/17 with voluntary sector partners delivering early intervention and support services for children and young people. We welcome this decision, but also recognise the pressure on statutory services that will result from the large number of voluntary redundancies that have occurred.

HCF would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people with whom it has worked closely on developing and improving services for children and young people with additional support needs: Marlyn Campbell, Development Officer for Disability; Jonathan Turner, Children's Disability Service District Manager; Cath King Health Improvement Policy Manager; Barrie Forbes Additional Support for Learning Coordinator; Anne Kyle Social Worker for Autistic Spectrum Disorders; Pene Rowe Child and Adult Protection Development Officer.

The loss of experience and expertise that goes with these people is enormous. Local Family Teams and local children's service planning will be tasked with delivering the outcomes of For Highland's Children service plan. HCF will continue to work with our Public and Third Sector partners to ensure progress towards improved services and to take stock of any impact from the changes in the lives of children, young people and their families.

Highland Children's Forum Consultation Work

Transitions Consultation

The current consultation around young people's transition planning for leaving school or children's services is going well.

Consultations have taken place with over 40 young people so far, with consultations scheduled to take place by the end of May with a further 30 young people.

The majority of the consultations have been one-to-one which has enabled some rich and in-depth data to be collected.

Young people with a wide and diverse range of additional support needs have been involved, including: young LGBT people; young carers; young people affected by domestic violence; care-experienced young people; young people on the autistic spectrum and young people with learning disabilities.

The aim is for the consultation phase to be completed by May, the data to be analysed over the summer months and a draft report produced by September.

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Highland Children's Forum AGM – save the date

The HCF AGM will be held on Tuesday 14th June at Smithton free Church with lunch at 12 and AGM start at 12.30 pm. We hope to have a few short presentations from young people we have been working with.

HCF are reviewing its membership database for those who share our [vision, mission and ambition](#) and who wish to remain members.

Invitations to the AGM and the opportunity to sign up to the new membership database will come out soon.

Highland Children's Forum gets new office equipment with Highland Cross Monies
Thank you Highland Cross



Highland Children's Forum are currently developing a brief for consultation with children and young people who are not in school or only accessing education part time. If you have experience in this area and would like to be involved in the consultation, please contact either policy@highlandchildrensforum.org or consultation@highlandchildrensforum.org

Third Sector Children and Family Seminars Service Providers Network and Information Workshops

HCF has been working closely with Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) and Care and Learning Alliance (CALA) to plan four seminars across Highland. This will raise awareness of "For Highland's Children 4" (FHC4) outcomes to Third Sector providers working with children and families. The seminars will enable the contribution of the Third Sector to be recognized in FHC4 improvement processes. The networking opportunity between local organisations will help plan collaboration to further contribute to identified outcomes for children and families.

There is a timely report considering the Third Sector role in delivering national outcomes recently published (Barnardos 2016): [National Third Sector GIRFEC Project Final Report](#)

Seminars (each running from 12- 4.30 pm) are as follows:
Inverness: 9th May Inshes Church
Wick: 17th May Pultneytown People's Project
Fort William: 27th May, Voluntary Action Lochaber
Dornoch: 30th May West Church Hall

Young Scot

Lindsay Brown is the new Localities Coordinator North for Young Scot. Young Scot have equalities as their focus this year. Lindsay is keen to work with HCF and other partners to ensure the Young Scot card and Saltire Award system develop to meet the particular needs of young people across the equalities spectrum. A number of ideas are being looked at and we will report back on progress in the next bulletin.

Duke of Edinburgh Pilot

HCF is involved with Duke of Edinburgh and Children's Disability Service to pilot a scheme of volunteer peer supporters. In a recent HCF consultation on Self-Directed Support, young people had expressed the desire to do activities with other young people who share the same interest. The pilot will be evaluated and reported on next year.

GoogleApps for Good

In HCF's report "My Child's Plan: My Views" (2014) young people expressed a desire to have a child friendly form of the Child's Plan. Wick High School has an award winning track record for developing Google Apps For Good. Two of their teams this year have taken up the idea of developing a Child's Plan Outcome/Achievement App. This could both give ownership of the action plan to the young person and also provide a way for the child's view to be captured in the Child's Plan. We will keep you up to date on progress.

Starting Social Enterprise

This is an exciting new programme for 16-25 year olds run by Aspire 2 Be and Birchwood Highland. It is 12 evening sessions and will help young people explore social enterprise and leadership in a relaxed, youth led setting. The programme is delivered by the Social Enterprise Academy in Inverness.

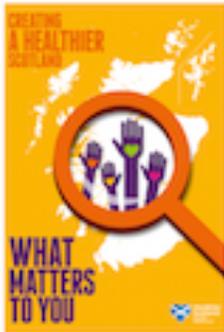
To book or get more information contact:
Linda.birnie@birchwoodhighland.org.uk or
david@socialenterprise.academy

Scottish Government Consultation on Children's Rights and Service Planning

[Consultation on Children's Rights and Service Planning](#) (Scottish Government March 2016) consults on the duty placed on Local Authorities, NHS Services and other relevant parties in the Children and Young People Scotland Act (2014) to ensure that local children's services plans reflect the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

HCF contributes to the development of local children's service planning through various Improvement Groups which have been tasked with reviewing their priorities against UNCRC. We also work with [Together Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights](#) in contributing to the State of Children's Rights report. Involving children and young people in reviewing how well services deliver children's rights is emphasised in the legislation. HCF will look to see children across the age and need spectrum involved in Highland.

Creating a Healthier Scotland Update



[Creating a healthier Scotland What Matters to You](#) is a report recently published from the National Conversation on Creating a Healthier Scotland.

What matters to people nationally has unsurprisingly echoed what children and young people in Highland have been saying to HCF for years: be person-centred; be holistic (mental wellbeing too); work preventatively; promote healthier lifestyles; offer accessible and flexible support and value unpaid carers (including young carers).

The report shares many creative and innovative ideas to deliver these. Well worth a read.

"Beautiful minds, wasted" Thoughts on Autism

The recent World Autism Week has helped raise awareness across sectors about how to become "autism friendly". "Beautiful minds, wasted" is the title of an interesting article in The Economist (April 16th 2016), recognising the number of people with autism who are not realising their potential in education or employment. The article emphasises that businesses that are autism friendly can benefit from the strengths some autistic traits can bring to the workplace. Another autism friendly initiative is that [Asda in Manchester](#) now offer a quiet hour for people with autism.

If you know of some good practice in terms of including children and young people with autism, [please let us know](#).

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