



SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER

ADMINISTRATION

PRESS RELEASE

(Issued on behalf of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration)

**SCRA CHAIR RE-APPOINTED
UNTIL 2010**

Douglas Bulloch has today been re-appointed as Chair of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), following an announcement by Robert Brown, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People.

Mr Bulloch, whose re-appointment will run from April this year to 31 March 2010, said: "There is an increasing awareness of a number of issues that SCRA has been highlighting for a number of years:

- An increasing number of children being referred to the Reporter
- A very significant level of increase in care and protection referrals often signifying new forms of neglect
- The social backgrounds of children who appear to be caught in a cycle of limited opportunity and little ambition
- The critically precarious position of children of many drug-using parents
- The increasing concern about anti-social behaviour particularly within already pressurised communities.

"There is much to do in SCRA and in the Children's Hearings System. There is, arguably, more for us to do in conjunction with local authority, health and police partners to identify families and communities at risk and to ensure that preventative services and early intervention are available to both protect children now and to enhance their prospects in the future.

“That is why the improved integration of the wider children’s services network as set out in the review of the Children’s Hearings System (Getting It Right for Every Child - GIRFEC) is so important.”

He added: “Issues of deprivation, neglect, addiction, anti-social behaviour, youth crime, poor parenting, poor achievement and opportunity gap are intimately linked. No piecemeal approach can be truly effective.

“That is why we are looking forward to the more co-ordinated and inclusive approach of GIRFEC and are eagerly awaiting its announcement by Ministers to enable all services to move together toward enhanced arrangements to the benefit of the most vulnerable, and sometimes most troublesome, children in Scotland.”

Douglas Bulloch was appointed SCRA Chair in April 2002, having previously worked as Director of Social Work at East Ayrshire Council from 1996 to 2001. He is a member of Expert Reference Group on Children’s Services, the Steering Group for Reform of Child Protection and the 21st Century Social Work Group. He led the action team on better integrated children’s services at the Scottish Executive that produced the report For Scotland’s Children, published in October 2001. Mr Bulloch was also Chair of the Scottish Social Work Best Value Network from 1998 to 2001.

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Notes to Editors:

SCRA is the national body that works with partners to provide an integrated care and justice system for children in Scotland.

It was formed under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and became fully operational on April 1 1996.

Our main responsibilities, as set out in the Act, are:

- To facilitate the work of Children’s Reporters
- To deploy and manage staff to carry out that work
- To provide suitable accommodation for Children’s Hearings

In 2004/5, SCRA received Grant-in-Aid of £23million, of which £2.5million was assigned to capital spending.

We employ 429 staff (FTE average 2004/5) of which over 80% are engaged in frontline service-delivery in our local network of 39 offices and hearing centres.

For all media enquiries, please contact Lois Boyle at Media House on 0141 220 6040 or 07803 204119.