

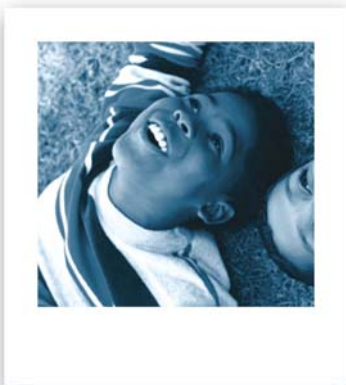


SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER
ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION DELIVERING INCLUSIVE WEBSITES: USER-CENTRED ACCESSIBILITY

12 NOVEMBER 2007

SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS



SCRA Background

Established in 1996, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) assumed responsibility for the Children's Reporter service across Scotland and operates as a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), funded by the Scottish Government. While the Principal Reporter is independent in terms of his/her decision-making powers in relation to children referred, the organisation and Board of SCRA is responsible and accountable to Scottish Ministers.

In 2006-07, 56,199 children were referred to the Children's Reporter. This figure represents 6.1% of all the children in Scotland. 39,709 of these children were referred because they were considered to require care and protection, while 11,570 had allegedly committed an offence. 4,920 children were referred on both care and protection and offence grounds.

Comment

SCRA welcomes the opportunity to review the draft guidance and considers that it provides a great deal of information and practical advice which is likely to be of use to public authorities. The dynamic aspect of the document, where hyperlinks are provided to sources of further information is particularly useful.

SCRA firmly believes that the internet provides a modern and economical means of communicating with stakeholders and with the wider public. Accessibility and ease of use are of vital importance and SCRA is committed to ensuring that its website¹ achieves a high standard in this regard for the benefit of all our online visitors, regardless of any disability or impairment.

In furtherance of this aim, SCRA's website has recently undergone a complete re-design to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and was re-launched at the beginning of November. Our accessibility standards adhere to the World Wide Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 1.0) and to recommendations set out by the e-Government Unit. Currently our website is compliant to WCAG priority 2 (Double A compliance) standard.

We look forward to any further consultation with the Central Office for Information on this topic.

¹ www.scra.gov.uk

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