

Welcome to our latest e-news bulletin ...



New research - Permanence Planning for Looked After Children in Scotland



We've published a new research report - 'Permanence Planning and Decision Making for Looked After Children in Scotland'.

The Scottish Government commissioned SCRA to carry out the research, the aim of which was – 'to assess progress in delivering improvements since the implementation of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007'.

This research examined the pathways through the care and court systems for 200 looked after children across Scotland who went on to have direct adoptions, Permanence Orders, and Permanence Orders with authority to adopt. Decision making was explored in detail through interviews and focus groups with key professionals in four local authorities.

The research identifies those aspects of the 2007 Act that are working well, and raises questions and suggestions for areas of improvement.

A supplementary report on the timescales in the care and permanence processes for 97 children (of the 200 in the sample) who were identified as at risk, at or before birth, accompanies this report.

You can view the full report and the supplementary report in the Publications/Research section of our [website](#).

The Scottish Government has established a Permanence Group as part of the Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP) to produce an Action Plan to take forward the areas for improvement identified by the research.

Guidance note – Helping Me Make Choices

A new guide to help professionals working with children and young people in the Hearings System has been published.

The document 'Helping Me Make Choices' has been published by the Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP).



It is based on what children and young people have said about the Children's Hearings System. You can view the document [here](#).

It is hoped professionals and decision makers can use this note and share it with other people to help children and young people understand what will happen before, during and after their Children's Hearing.

SCRA Records Management Plan

SCRA has submitted its Records Management Plan for assessment by the Keeper of the Records of Scotland. The Plan sets out the arrangements in place within SCRA for managing records in line with the 14 elements identified within the Keeper of the Records of Scotland's Model Records Management Plan. Now the Plan has been submitted to the Keeper, it will be reviewed by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) Implementation Team. You can view the plan on our [website](#).

Season's Greetings

This is our last e-news of 2015. Thanks to all our partners for your support throughout the year. We look forward to working with you all in 2016. Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year.

