

2 March 2012

## SCRA response to the Scottish Government's consultation

### Background

The Children's Hearings System is Scotland's distinct system of child protection and youth justice. Among its fundamental principles are:

- That children who offend and children who are in need of care and protection are dealt with in the same system
- That the welfare of the child remains at the centre of all decision making

SCRA operates the Reporter service which sits at the heart of the system. SCRA employs Children's Reporters who are located throughout Scotland, working in close partnership with other professionals such as social work, education, the police, the health service and the courts system.

SCRA's vision is that vulnerable children and young people in Scotland are safe, protected and offered positive futures. We will seek to achieve this by adhering to the following key values:

- The voice of the child must be heard.
- Our hopes and dreams for the children of Scotland are what unite us.
- Children and young people's experiences and opinions guide us.
- We are approachable and open.
- We bring the best of the past with us into the future to meet new challenges.

### Response

SCRA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on this set of regulations.

We are supportive of the need for a review Hearing to be held as soon as reasonably practicable after the child has moved to Scotland. This will ensure that a Hearing can consider the child's needs and ensure that the CSO meets them appropriately. We agree that 20 working days is the right timescale for this to take place. Though we note that the regulations as currently drafted provide for a 5 working day timescale. We strongly believe that 20 working days is the appropriate provision.

### Conclusion

We are wholly supportive of the regulations, subject to the comments above.

**SCRA**

March 2012

