Progressing Children’s Rights – An Action Plan – SCRA response

APPENDIX III

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree that the Action Plan should include:
   i. Identified strategic actions intended to secure transformational change in how children and young people experience their rights.
      Yes

   ii. A summary of specific initiatives being taken forward across all Scottish Government portfolios that captures what we will do in the next 3 years to secure better or further effect of the UNCRC principles.
      Yes – including consideration of the way this preparatory work will link into the wider political aim of the incorporation of UNCRC into Scottish Domestic Legislation.

   iii. A number of key policy specific actions identified through the consultation process that are not currently being taken forward through other Scottish Government initiatives.
      Yes

Where you answered ‘No’ to any of the above questions – please provide your reasons why you did not agree.

2. Do you agree that the 4 proposed strategic actions are appropriate and will help to take forward the principles of the UNCRC?
   i. Development of a dynamic Participation Framework for Children and Young People.
      Yes/No

   ii. Ambitious delivery, through co-production, of the 3 year children’s rights awareness programme.
      Yes/No

   iii. Progressing the comprehensive audit on the most effective and practical way to further embed the principles of the UNCRC into policy, practice and legislation, including the option of full incorporation into domestic law.

Yes/No

3. Are there ways in which the proposed strategic actions listed above could be further strengthened? - please specify.

SCRA welcomes the proposal to develop a more coordinated, systematic and sustainable approach to engaging with vulnerable children and young people at national and local levels, including children and young people with disabilities, care experienced children and young people, LGBT young people, young carers and young refugees. We would also recommend systematic consultation with children and young people from minority ethnic communities and different faith groups.

The dynamic participation framework should be developed to allow for its use by a variety of public bodies in relation to their specific areas of interest – whilst also collating relevant and proportionate data on a national basis. Different public sector bodies are scrutinizing the ways in which they can gather information and encourage participation and there is a real danger that resources will be duplicated across the country in pursuit of the same aim. The ‘Better Hearings’ focus in the Children’s Hearings System is centred on improving and strengthening participation and understanding in the Children’s Hearing, and the Children’s Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP) and the Our Hearings, Our Voice Board of Hearings experienced children and young people will deliver changes to the operations and the experience of the Hearings System.

The Scottish Children’s Reporter, the Children’s Hearings System (for example) and the CHIP would want to be / need to be involved in the development of this framework and would want to be able to adapt elements of it for the benefit of specific participation / engagement with the public service we provide.

4. Are there additional or alternative strategic actions that the Scottish Ministers should consider? - please specify.
Given the commitment to incorporate UNCRC into domestic legislation under the programme for government 2018/2019 there should be a strategic approach for each portfolio to assessing readiness / what work requires to be done prior to incorporation. This baseline assessment could be an additional strategic action.

5. Are there any specific actions - not currently being progressed within a wider Scottish Government action plan, framework or other initiative, - that should be considered for inclusion within the Action Plan? No.

SCRA Practice & Policy team 2018