

Deprivation and Referrals to the Reporter

Focused on children and young people most at risk, SCRA's fundamental purpose is to:

- Make effective decisions about a need to refer a child/young person to a Children's Hearing
- Prepare for and participate in court proceedings where Statement of Grounds or Hearings findings are appealed, and ensure the wellbeing of children and young people – particularly vulnerable witnesses – are protected throughout the court process
- Support Panel Members (though we are not involved in making Hearing decisions) and ensure fair process in Hearings
- Enable children, young people and families to participate in Hearings
- Disseminate information and data to influence and inform the wider Children's Services community
- Provide premises for Hearings to take place
- Work collaboratively with partners to support and facilitate the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) agenda

Current trends

9,206 children and young people in Scotland were subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order (CSO) as at 31 March 2019, a decrease on last year's figure of 9,493. A CSO is made for a child/young person where a Children's Hearing decides that compulsory measures are needed to protect the child/young person or address their behaviour. Specific conditions can be attached to the CSO such as changing the place where a child/young person may live.

Compulsory Supervision Orders across Scotland

The most common places children and young people with a CSO resided at 31 March 2019:

| Types of CSO | Number of children and young people |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| With parent/relevant person | 4,226 |
| With other approved foster parent | 2,599 |
| With relative/friend - other | 1,100 |
| With relative/friend - approved foster parent | 515 |
| Children's unit | 301 |
| Residential school | 185 |
| Other residential placement | 239 |
| Other | 27 |
| Other non-residential placement | 11 |
| None recorded | 3 |
| Total | 9,206 |

Links with deprivation

SCRA conducted its own study on deprivation and children and young people referred to the Reporter – specifically children and young people on Supervision Requirements. SCRA's study¹ looked at all wards across Edinburgh, which was chosen due to the differences between areas of high and low levels of deprivation within the city.

The study found that areas with the highest multiple deprivation had the highest numbers of children/young people on Supervision Requirements (now known as Compulsory Supervision Orders).

- Children/young people with Supervision Requirements averaged 1% of the national child population.
- The ward with the highest multiple deprivation in Edinburgh had 7% of its children/young people subject to Supervision Requirements.
- 49% of children/young people in this ward lived in a house with no adult working, 60% lived in socially rented housing, 51% lived with a single parent and 59% of these children/young people were entitled to free school meals.
- In the ward with the lowest multiple deprivation, the situation was very different. No children/young people were subject to Supervision Requirements. 3% lived in a house with no adult working, 7% lived with a single parent and 2.5% were entitled to free school meals.

The majority of children/young people with Supervision Requirements in Edinburgh (72%) had been referred to the Reporter on care and protection grounds. Whilst 26% of these children/young people had offence and non-offence grounds of referral, only 1.7% had been referred for offending only.

¹Child Deprivation and Compulsory Measures: Exploring the Links in Edinburgh (SCRA 2006)



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