

Children Referred 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

Key trends

Referrals to SCRA have declined in recent years, from 38,989 children and young people being referred in 2010/11 to 12,849 children and young people in 2019/20 (10,823 on non-offence (care and protection) grounds and 2,840 on offence grounds).

The number of children and young people referred to the Reporter in 2019/20 has decreased for the 13th consecutive year, yet we continue to receive significant numbers of referrals for vulnerable and at risk children and young people. Individual cases continue to present complex challenges and there is a general trend of increasing court work.

The figure of 12,849 children and young people referred to the Reporter in 2019/20 represents 1.4% of all children and young people in Scotland.

The last few years have seen excellent co-operation and partnership working to ensure that children and young people who do not require compulsory measures of supervision, receive earlier and effective intervention from our partners elsewhere in the children's services arena. The impact of this is undoubtedly highlighted through the numbers of children and young people referred.

| Children/young people | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Children subject to CSOs | 9,206 | 8,875 |
| Children referred - non-offence | 10,881 | 10,823 |
| Children referred - offence | 2,824 | 2,840 |

Emergency measures

Where children and young people are at risk of harm and emergency action is needed to protect them, they will be made subject to a Child Protection Order and/or an Interim Order.

| Children of all ages | 2019/20 |
|--|---------|
| made subject to Interim Order | 2,618 |
| made subject to Child Protection Order | 540 |

Sources of referral

Any person or any agency can refer a child or young person to SCRA if they consider that the child or young person may require compulsory measures of supervision to protect them or address their behaviour. Most referrals are from the police.

| Common sources of referral | 2019/20 referrals |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Police | 16,625 |
| Social Work | 3,357 |
| Education | 1,197 |
| Court | 282 |
| Health | 125 |
| Multi-agency | 133 |

Age of referral

The most common ages for children and young people to be referred to the Reporter continue to be 14 and 15 years. This has historically been the case for both care and protection and offence grounds but this year, 13 and 14 are the most common ages for care and protection grounds.



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