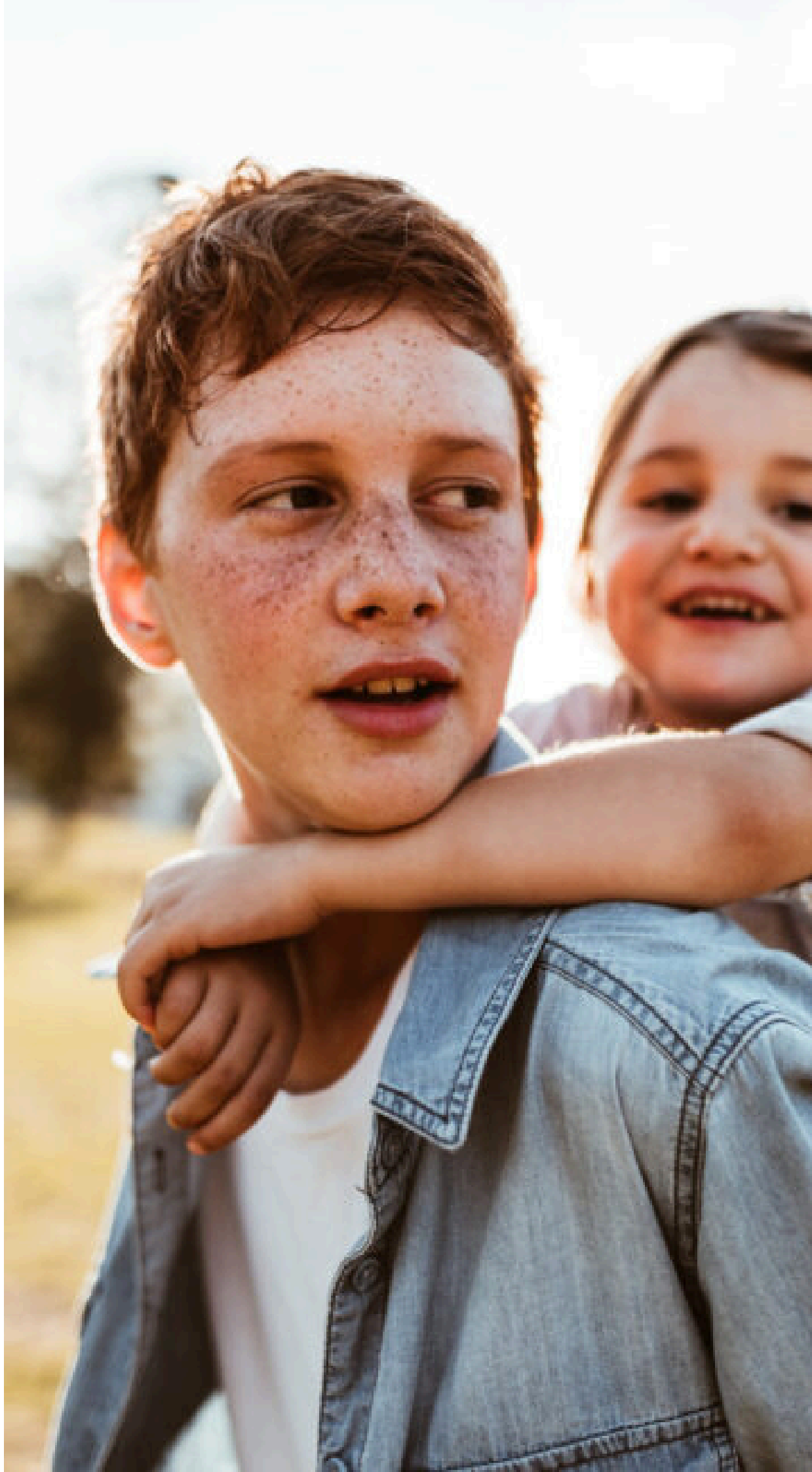


Influencing Report



Influencing Report: 1st June 2024 to 1st June 2025

Contents

Introduction	2
Consultation Responses	6
Legislation	14
External and wider influences work	21

1 Introduction

- 1.1 SCRA produces a report every year for our Board, covering the influencing work we have been involved in across the past 12 months. This is a version of that report, formatted for an external audience.
- 1.2 There are hyperlinks in this document – to external documents which may be of interest (including legislation and draft legislation) and to internal documents, published. Some hyperlinks may be to web pages where there are multiple documents of potential interest.

Where there are links to legislation these links are to a Bill or an Act, not to associated policy memoranda or regulations (unless these other documents are of specific interest).

- 1.3 [Programme for Government \(PfG\)](#) – The Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025 – 26 – Building the Best Future for Scotland was published on 6th May 2025. The 2025 PfG was published earlier than its usual September publication to allow a full year of delivery before the 2026 elections to the Scottish Parliament. There will be no PfG in September 2025.

The 4 main priorities for the Scottish Government continue to be:

- **Growing the Economy**
- **Eradicating Child Poverty**

(PfG page 20) – Keeping the Promise – care leavers payment will be introduced from 1st April 2026; the ‘Children and Young People (Care) (Scotland) Bill will be introduced; removing profit from the delivery of care; new vision for kinship care by the end of 2025 including allowance changes; responding to the [Reimagining Secure Care Report](#); Testing [Bairns’ Hoose](#); Establishing a National Social Work Agency. The action under ‘ensuring equality’ (page 21) is also relevant.

1.4

- **Tackling the Climate Emergency**
- **High Quality and Sustainable Public Services**

(PfG page 33) – [National Care Service Advisory Board](#) being established in May 2025; Implementing actions from [Module 1 of the UK Covid Inquiry](#) on resilience and preparedness; Publishing a service renewal framework for health and social care; focus on A-B-C's (attainment, attendance, behaviour, curriculum) in education including a national campaign on attendance in Autumn 2025¹; Ministerial online safety taskforce². Ensuring a safer Scotland will occur through a focus on antisocial crimes and by suspending concessionary travel; ScotRail addressing antisocial behaviour on trains and at stations; responding to the Anti-Social behaviour Working Group Report³; implementing Year 3 of the [Violence Prevention framework](#); tackling retail crime⁴. There is also a focus on victims and witnesses – a pilot of specialist legal advice and a presumption that children under 16 should pre-record evidence; legislation will be passed (covered below); the [digital evidence sharing capability \(DESC\)](#) will continue to roll out; scoping of new specialised models of imprisonment for younger people; making roads safer⁵.

1.5

The planned Scottish Government strategy for Public Service Reform is set to be published in 2025 and will make clear the actions that will be taken to improve public services. This will involve consolidating public bodies and streamlining service delivery (PfG page 40)⁶.

1.6

SCRA's strategic plans – SCRA's policy work is embedded across our plans and imbued throughout the work. However, there are some areas of action / intention where policy is more front and centre.

¹ This may have an impact on referral practice and should be considered as part of ongoing work in relation to referrals by the Programme Team.

² This does not appear to have been established as of 21/05/2025 – but is likely to be something SCRA will want to take an active part in.

³ This renewed focus on antisocial behaviours and crimes may have an impact on referral practices and may require updated training / information / awareness raising for SCRA staff, if the [Antisocial Behaviour etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) is again to be a piece of legislation used by local authorities with children and their families.

⁴ As above – a national focus on combatting retail crime may have an impact on referral practice.

⁵ As above – a national focus on making roads safer may have an impact on referral practice.

⁶ SCRA and other bodies in the children's hearings system has not been a focus of this work to date, but the spotlight of additional change legislation may also mean that we are looked at through the lens of public service reform as well. This is a risk and an opportunity and may need to be added to the risk register as such.

1.7 SCRA Corporate Plan 2024-2027

■ **The Best Experience – Care**

Trauma based practice embedded in our service – our people, policy and practice. (page 12)
Recognition of the legal status that UNCRC now holds by ensuring we are trained and prepared to meet these requirements and be able to respond when required. (page 12)
16 and 17 year olds coming to the Hearings System will be enabled to fully exercise their rights to attend, participate and access the support they require. (page 12)
Legislative proposals that have taken account of our views for the change that is needed to deliver a better system to children and young people. (page 12)

■ **Clear communications – Connect**

Using evidence-based data and research to understand, inform and influence our operational delivery, our practice and the wider policy agenda.(Page 13)

■ **The Best Service – Protect**

Mature partnerships and collective leadership in the Hearings System will continue to be nurtured to deliver meaningful improvements for the benefit of children, young people and families.(Page 14)

■ **People who care, connect and protect**

A positive ‘one team’ culture where people are encouraged to engage, innovate and lead together. (page 15)
Our people feeling valued, supported, skilled, and proud of the key role that they play. (page 15)

1.8 Corporate Parenting Plan – 2024-2027

More 16 and 17 year olds are referred to the Reporter providing them with the protection and support of the Children’s Hearings System. (Page 5)

1.9 Rights, Inclusion and Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024–2027

Children are empowered to be human rights defenders. (Page 2). SCRA will use human rights/children’s rights as a frame in our work. (Page 3). SCRA staff across the organisation will be trauma informed and rights aware. SCRA staff will work in a compassionate, trauma informed and rights respecting way. (Page 3). People who are affected by the work of SCRA will know what rights they have and what they can do if they feel like their rights have not been considered. (Page 4)

SCRA will have robust, evidence based and lived experience based approaches to difficult areas of work, where people’s rights can be affected. (Page 5).

- 1.10 Research Evidence Base – The Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration recognises the value, benefits and impact of research and evidence, and are committed to developing the evidence-based to inform child welfare and justice policies within Scotland.

The approach to evidence-based policy adopted at SCRA recognises that evidence is generated from a wide range of sources, including: the production of annual statistics; literature reviews; primary research undertaken with stakeholders within the children’s hearings system, including children and families; practice experience; consultations undertaken with staff members on forthcoming changes to legislation; and participation work with hearings-experienced children.

Through gathering evidence in all of these ways, we are able to better inform our policy and practice positions by triangulating the knowledge, experiences and skills of our Children’s Reporters, with the experiences and preferences of children, families and partner agencies, and learning from the wider evidence base.

- 1.11 We have taken a decision to minimise publication of consultation responses across different online platforms. If an SCRA response will be published by Government or by a partner then we will not publish it as well.
- 1.12 Key messages from our consultation responses are disseminated internally within SCRA using an appropriate communication channel, determined by the Head of Practice and Police and Policy and Public Affairs Manager, based on the content and engagement involved in any consultation exercise. Some consultation responses are more relevant to staff than others, and might become more relevant if they develop into new legislation or a new national policy approach.

Every SCRA consultation response is produced following detailed planning about gathering necessary and relevant views in relation to the response, and following input from staff that is proportionate to the consultation.

3 Legislation

- 3.1 This section of the report covers legislation that is currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament as part of a live parliamentary process, or legislation that has been agreed and is in the process of being implemented. Some Acts of the Scottish Parliament can take many years for full implementation to occur.

SCRA are involved in legislation at all stages of the legislative process. We respond to requests from Parliamentary Committees for written evidence when these occur and we will also provide evidence in person to Committee. We also maintain dialogue with different Bill teams across Scottish Government, to ensure that our views are heard / position is clear and known - on areas of legislative change which will affect our work or the work across the children's hearing system. We can contact Bill teams formally but we also have more frequent and less formal conversations around areas of challenge or difficulty – to ensure that wicked and complex issues are fully understood and dealt with accordingly. These conversations occur throughout the process of developing legislation and will also occur during the implementation of any new Act.

Our wider work in section 4 of this report will often be linked to legislation covered in this section. We have tried to ensure that where this is the case we have pointed out the links.

3.2 **Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019**

SCRA had a member of staff seconded to the bill team for the development of this legislation and we have been involved in a number of delivery groups linked to the Act (see section 4 for more information about this). Alistair Hogg sat on the ACR Advisory Group, and Neil Hunter sat on the ACR Programme Board. SCRA also had representatives on 2 of the working groups reporting to the Advisory Group, and our research team was commissioned to produce a study into offending by 12 to 15 year olds (published in 2022 and available: [Children-aged-12-to-15-years-offending.pdf](#)).

This Act is in force and the report from the Age of Criminal Responsibility Advisory Group, on a further change to the Age was presented to the Minister on 16th December 2024, after its 3 year review period. The report can be read. [The-Report-from-the-Age-of-Criminal-Responsibility-Advisory-Group-on-the-review-of-the-Age-of-Criminal-Responsibility-Scotland-1.pdf](#).

Scottish Government now has a year to determine next steps in relation to the age, and must present this to Parliament, before December 2025.

3.3 [The Children \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)

SCRA were closely involved in the development of this legislation and had a member of staff seconded to the Scottish Government team. Alistair Hogg gave evidence about the bill to the Justice Committee in January 2020.

There are provisions of the Act still to be implemented, including:

- Sections 1, 2, 3 in relation to child's views which covers the presumption that a child aged 12 or over is considered mature enough to give their views and ensures that younger children who are capable of forming a view and wish to give that view are able to do so. All children are to be supported to give their views in a manner they prefer.
- Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 in relation to new special measures to protect vulnerable witnesses including allowing the court to prohibit a party to proceedings conducting their own case.
- Section 16, 18, 19 factors to be considered in making a [section 11](#) order, under the 1995 Children (Scotland) Act.
- Section 20 in relation to explaining court decisions to a child.
- Section 21 duty to ensure the availability of child advocacy services.
- Section 22 failure to obey the order.
- Section 28 conferral of parental rights if birth registered outside UK and Section 29 extension to Sheriff of enforcement powers.
- Section 30 – Delay in proceedings likely to affect child's welfare.
- Section 31 - review of child's ability to participate.

3.4 [The Disclosure \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)

Part of the Act commenced in stages on 10/12/2021 30/09/2024 03/03/2025 and 01/04/2025. There are sections still prospective:

- Section 71 on duration of scheme membership.
- Section 72 on failure to apply for renewal of scheme membership.
- Section 76 conditions imposed on scheme members under consideration for listing.
- Section 81 removal of references by court.

As of 1st April 2025 information has been available in relation to:

- What the law says ([Behaviour under the age of 12 and disclosure – mygov.scot](#))
- How the law treats pre 12 behaviour now ([How the law treats pre-12 behaviour now – mygov.scot](#))
- How the review process works ([How the review process works – mygov.scot](#))
- Providing information to the Independent Reviewer ([How to provide information to the independent reviewer – mygov.scot](#))

SCRA also issued an update practice note to Children's Reporters.

3.5 United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

SCRA were closely involved with Scottish Government throughout the development of this legislation and had a member of staff seconded to the bill team. SCRA provided written evidence to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee of the Scottish Parliament, and Alistair Hogg also gave evidence to the Committee in person.

The Act commenced on 16th July 2024, following scrutiny by the Supreme Court and amendment to the provisions. There are no prospective provisions to this piece of legislation.

SCRA altered our approach to communication with children following receipt of a referral to give children the opportunity to provide their views on the decision to be made by the Children's Reporter (Article 12). We continue to be involved in wider influencing work linked to this Act - please see section 4 for more details. We continue to review this approach and have recently altered the search parameters on our website to make it easier for children to find the forms they need to give their views online.

3.6 [Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

This is a Government Bill that was introduced on 25/04/2023. The Bill is being considered by the Criminal Justice Committee. The Bill is in 6 parts:

Part 1 – creates a Victims and Witnesses Commissioner for Scotland

Part 2 – embeds trauma informed practice in civil and criminal courts

Part 3 – increases special measures availability

Part 4 – changes criminal jury size, rules re: majority verdicts and removes not proven

Part 5 – creates new sexual offences court

Part 6 – provides automatic lifelong anonymity for victims of sexual offences, automatic right to independent legal representation for complainers in sexual offence cases when application made to introduce character evidence, powers to pilot rape trials in front of a single judge.

The Bill is at stage 3, and MSPs can currently submit amendments to the Bill. There is no current deadline for amendments as the Stage 3 meeting date has not yet been agreed.

SCRA submitted a response to the Committee call for views at Stage 1 which can be read here: [Response 40014021 to Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform \(Scotland\) Bill – Scottish Parliament – Citizen Space.](#)

We agreed with the role of Victims Commissioner – and that any such Commissioner should look to expand their role across the children’s hearings system in the future. SCRA works with a variety of people who are ‘victims’ in a number of different situations and further discussion is therefore required for the value of a Commissioner’s role across the children’s hearings system to be maximised.

We agreed with the definition of trauma informed practice and the development of special measures.

We asked for any innovative court practice in relation to the sexual offences court to be transferable and adaptable to children’s hearings court proceedings.

We continue to be developing our approach to victims and victim support, as a result of this and our involvement with Lady Dorrian’s review, the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 and the Children (Care and Justice) Scotland Act 2024 – there is more information about this in section 4 of this report.

SCRA will keep a watching brief, to see if we need to become further involved or we need to communicate relevant changes to staff.

3.7 [Wellbeing and Sustainable Development \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

This is a Members bill, from Sarah Boyack MSP, which was introduced to parliament on 27th March 2025. It sets out that public bodies must take account of the need to promote wellbeing and sustainable development in their work. It would also establish a 'Future Generations Commissioner' who would promote the wellbeing of future generations and sustainable development in decision making by all public bodies, support public bodies to work together and publish guidance.

SCRA responded to consultation in advance of this Bill being drafted, and our consultation response is available here: [Response 642117775 to Wellbeing and Sustainable Development \(Scotland\) Bill – Scottish Government consultations – Citizen Space.](#)

The consultation received 180 responses. SCRA's response is directly reflected in the full analysis on a number of occasions.

In relation to whether a statutory definition is required: "This illustrates the difficulties with a statutory definition. Can a definition be found which works equally well for different situations and which has universal applicability and understanding. Consequently, regulation may be the best vehicle to provide definitions of wellbeing which link to context – and which take full account of the broad range of available wellbeing measures and indicators." Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, page 23.

In relation to further consultation with stakeholders: "It would seem that some work on whether the definition of sustainable development as proposed would encompass the different uses of the term across legislation since devolution. If the definition proposed could provide an umbrella under which previous iterations of the concept or approach can continue to be affected, then that would make sense. If it cannot provide such an umbrella, then specific areas of prior legislation may need to be amended." Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, page 41.

In relation to duties applying to Scottish Government: "this should be done 'in a way which is accessible for all the people of Scotland' (Scottish Children's Reporter Administration), page 69.

In relation to not applying a duty to any organisation: "An alternative viewpoint is expressed by, for example, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, who say: "No, that would be for Government to determine based on an assessment of what will be needed in order for them to report accurately against the National Outcomes." Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, page 75.

In relation to whether it is too early to tell whether additional resource may be required: "There may be resource and associated cost implications. However, we would want to make such assessment when the full detail of any change was clear." Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, page 97.

SCRA will keep a watching brief, to see if we need to become further involved or we need to communicate relevant changes to staff.

3.8 [The National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill, NOW the Care Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

SCRA have been involved throughout the progress of this legislation and had a member of staff seconded to the Scottish Government Bill Team.

Prior to the conclusion of stage 2 proceedings on 04/03/2025 the Bill was referred to as the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. It was intended to establish a National Care Service. It is a Government Bill and was introduced on 22/06/2022.

The Bill is now called the Care Reform (Scotland) Bill and is at stage 3. (following Stage 2 amendment). It can be read here: [Care Reform \(Scotland\) Bill as amended at Stage 2.](#)

The key change from this Bill is the establishment of the National Chief Social Work Advisor and National Social Work Agency. We will keep a watching brief, to see if we need to become further involved or we need to communicate relevant changes to staff.

The CELCIS research reports into Children's Services Reform, which were commissioned as part of the National Care Service approach, are available: [Childrens Services Reform Research reports :: Celcis](#)

3.9 Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 (CCJA)

This Act was one where SCRA were closely involved throughout the development of the legislation and had a member of staff seconded to the Scottish Government Bill Team as the legislation was developed. Alistair Hogg also gave evidence twice to the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

After a period of about 18 months, the Scottish Parliament passed the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 (CCJA 2024) on 25th April 2024 and it received Royal Assent on 4th June 2024.

As of 28th August 2024 no children under the age of 18 can be held in Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs), section 18 of the CCJA 2024 and as of 28th August 2024 no new admissions for children will be made to YOIs and children under 18 who were in YOIs were transferred to secure care centres. In addition, some young people can now remain in secure accommodation up until their 19th birthday.

Other key aspects of the CCJA 2024 still need to be implemented – and these changes will be significant ones for the children’s hearings system.

- 1) Part 1 of the CCJA 2024 is about changing the age of a child – so that a child is anyone under 18, in line with UNCRC and so that all 16 & 17 year olds can be referred to the Principal Reporter as a result of care and protection concerns as well as behaviour which is in conflict with the law.
- 2) Part 1 also introduces new measures in compulsory supervision orders (CSOs) in relation to providing additional protection for victims; alters the information which can be given to victims and establishes a new ‘single point of contact’ (SPOC) for victims.
- 3) Part 1 also changes the tests for secure accommodation and movement restriction conditions (MRCs).

Part 2 of CCJA 2024 is focused on criminal justice proceedings, but still has relevance for SCRA’s work in the children’s hearings system. Section 17 re-affirms the approach of advice from the children’s hearing and a reference or remit from the criminal court, when the court decides that the children’s hearing could be the ‘best’ disposal for a child. This part also makes clear that a ‘detained’ child is to be treated as a ‘looked after’ child (section 24).

Part 3 of CCJA 2024 delivers change to the provision of secure transport. It introduces standards for the secure transportation of children; a duty on providers to meet the standards and a reporting requirement as well.

Part 4 introduces regulation around the approval of secure accommodation services and residential services providing care to children. It also clarifies the law around the cross-border placement of children and the regulation of cross-border placements.

Part 5 alters the age of a child in respect of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, so that it applies to anyone under 18 and repeals the named person and child’s plan sections part 4 and schedule 2 and part 5, schedule 3 from the Children and Young People (Scotland)

Act 2014. Part 6 covers UNCRC compatibility in criminal proceedings and part 7 makes clear that the act will be reviewed regularly.

SCRA has a CCJA Implementation Project Group looking at the Scottish Government's implementation plans and all the work SCRA needs to do in order to transition smoothly across to this new legislation. At the point of writing, detail of the implementation timetable was not available from Scottish Government. SCRA has been clear with Government that we need a 9 month lead in time to any implementation date – as a result of a 3 month recruitment period, followed by a 6 month training period for new Children's Reporter staff.

- 3.10 In this section we have decided to highlight some areas of developing legislation where SCRA has not had significant involvement to date, but where we are keeping a watching brief as there might be an impact across our work in the future.

Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill

This is a members bill from Pam Gosal, MSP, which was introduced on 07/-5/2025 and is intended to reduce incidents of domestic abuse in Scotland.

Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill

This is a members bill from Jeremy Balfour, MSP and was introduced on 08/02/2024. It intends to establish a Disability Commissioner to promote and safeguard the rights of disabled people.

Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill

This is a Government Bill and was introduced on 20/04/2023. Stage 3 ended on 20/05/2025 when the Bill was passed by Parliament with a vote of 88 for, 26 against, 0 abstentions and 14 did not vote. A final version of the Bill as passed is available. (**Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill as passed**).

Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill

This is a members bill from Douglas Ross, MSP, introduced on 14/05/2024. It intends to provide a treatment determination and an appropriate treatment to people diagnosed with an addiction to alcohol or drugs. Treatment is to be made available within 3 weeks of any treatment determination.

SCRA will keep a watching brief, to see if we need to become involved or we need to communicate relevant changes to staff.

External and wider influencing work

- 4.1 Following on from our consultation and legislative work, this section of the report covers the national wider multi-agency or partnership work that staff across SCRA are involved in. Much of this work is a natural extension of or follow on from the involvement we have had with legislative or policy design at a previous stage.

However, it is important to stress that this report does not cover multi-agency or partnership work at local or locality level. At local level the model of partnership work replicates the national model – with a local frontline/ practice focus. All of the issues relevant to national discussion are also relevant to local delivery of the work. The section is retrospective – but it also looks ahead to SCRA’s anticipated involvement in the work in the next 12 months.

A broad range of work is covered.

The table below is loosely in alphabetical order.

	Group and attendance	Impact / influence we have had and anticipated impact / influence in the next 12 months
4.2	ACR Advisory Group and ACR Operational Implications sub-group	Not yet known as the Advisory Group’s work concluded with the publication of its report in December
4.3	ACR Data and Research Subgroup	Addendums to this report being prepared on: 1) serious offences referred to the Reporter by 12-15 year olds; 2) balancing rights of children who harm and those who are harmed that will be available to Ministers for ACR review by end of 2025.
4.4	Alcohol & Drug Early Intervention with young People Working Group -	<p>This piece of work has been under the National Mission Plan: 2022-2026. Report – Drug and Alcohol – Standards and Recommendations of Treatment and Support for Young People is due to be published in Summer 2025.</p> <p>The standards and recommendations will then need to be considered, SCRA staff may need to be made aware and additional work may need to be done in order to make them ‘real’ in the context of our work.</p>
4.5	Bairns' Hoose Indicators - Working Group	It is anticipated that there will be a functional consistent set of baseline indicators of data already collated that can be used in the evaluation phase of the project and to be used thereafter for all partners to assess strengths and gaps. Deadline: June 2026

4.6 Children’s Hearings Advocacy Expert Reference Group and working groups -	<p>SCRA have been involved for many years in this wider work, which began by looking at the way in which section 122 of the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 could be introduced in a meaningful and effective way. This sector of the children’s hearings system workforce is vibrant and innovative and offers children a support which can work. SCRA works to ensure that the focus of the work is always within the ethos and legislative framework of the children’s hearing and associated legislation and that the approaches being taken are recognised by everyone and are consistent.</p> <p>We provide a regular data update to the group, which is being developed constantly in order to maximise the data we have and to be as useful as possible to the providers. Our report is also circulated around Chief Social Work Officers by Social Work Scotland, and is sent to our Locality Reporter Managers.</p>
4.7 Child Protection Committees, Scotland (CPC Scotland)	Continued support for this engaging and influential group.
4.8 Child Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy Group	<p>SCRA sits on this Scottish Government strategy group, to ensure that the unique ethos and approach of the children’s hearings system is recognised across discussions as and when necessary. SCRA’s influence in this group is likely to increase across the next 12 months, as a result of renewed focus on the children’s hearings system as a result of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024, children’s hearings redesign and the Children and Young People (Care) (Scotland) Bill as well as the review of the age of criminal responsibility. There may also be a focus as a result of increased media coverage of violent crime involving children.</p>
4.9 Children and counter terrorism group	<p>Influenced SG input to the UK Govt on the sections on Youth Diversion Orders for terrorism offences in the Crime and Policing Bill (and Explanatory Notes) ensuring they properly reflect the role of the Principal Reporter</p> <p>Ensured the potential role of the Children’s Hearings system in responding to minor terrorism related offences is understood by partners</p> <p>Limited as bill is nearly through parliament but likely to be ongoing meetings to coordinate response to children involved in terrorism offences</p>

4.10 Children and Families National Leadership Group – GIRFEC sub-group	<p>The sub-group exists to strengthen the understanding and implementation of ‘Getting it right for every child’ (GIRFEC) across children’s services. The sub-group will work in partnership with the Scottish Government to lead and coordinate a programme of improvement activity which is integral to the consistent, high quality implementation of GIRFEC across children’s services including:</p> <p>Workforce development Refreshed GIRFEC narrative Leadership and culture Review and evaluation</p> <p>Anticipated impact/influence in the next 12 months : Providing expertise and insights from the point of view of SCRA and the Children’s Hearing System in contributing to the work of the sub-group.</p>
4.11 Children’s Rights Implementation Group	<p>Ensuring the position of the reporter and hearings system is properly understood and reflected in the group’s work Work is ongoing. This group reports to the Youth Justice Improvement Board.</p>
4.12 Children and young people affected by parental imprisonment advisory group	<p>SCRA’s involvement will be to cascade relevant information to staff as and when it becomes available and to consider what is relevant and necessary to communicate - and to whom – at various points. Much of the work is happening at more local levels – and as such there may be learning that local SCRA staff groups and partners can share with the rest of the organisation.</p>
4.13 Community of Practice for Siblings	<p>We have taken part in many development sessions to ensure that the rights of siblings are promoted and recognised, and our work is ongoing.</p>
4.14 Court project work	<p>It is hoped that a collaborative project will be initiated and that partnership work will continue in this area that can lead to tangible differences in the management of children's hearings applications to court.</p>
4.15 Early engagement on grounds project	<p>Ongoing links with SG as to the developing legislation in this area and the connections with internal project activity.</p>
4.16 Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Steering Group	<p>Supporting national quality standards, and potential for expansion of the offer of FGDM.</p>

4.17	Government Funded, VSS/Journey Associates led design process for SPOC (Single Point of Contact) for victims of children referred to the Children's Reporter,	Influence the design of a SPOC service as part of the implementation of the Children(Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024
4.18	Group led by Association for Fostering, Kinship and Adoption Scotland producing guides on good practice in permanence,	ensuring the position of the reporter and hearings system is properly understood and reflected in the group's work, this work is ongoing
4.19	Hearings Scheduling partnership work with Children's Hearings Scotland	Work will continue with the rollout plan for the updated Hearings Management Guidance.
4.20	Lady Dorrian's Review - Governance Group	The review was into the management of sexual offences in Scotland but also contained several recommendations relating to the Children's Hearing System Soft influencing role focused on raising the profile of our work and the children's hearings system when that is required. Information may need to be shared internally with the Head of Practice and Policy or with wider staff from this group.
4.21	National Bairns' Hoose Implementation Group	<p>SCRA is a key partner in the development of Bairns' Hoose projects across the country. We are involved in all local projects, and this national group provide oversight and an advisory/supportive role for those projects. Supporting the development of the projects, and the gathering of data to allow a full evaluation of the Bairns' Hoose standards.</p> <p>SCRA also manages the Bairns' Hoose website.</p>
4.23	National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Strategy Group (CSAE)	Ensuring the role of the Reporter and the hearing system is considered as part of any strategy or plan, this work is ongoing
4.24	National Oversight Group for Joint Investigative Interviewing	The development of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) has been hugely significant in improving the process of Joint Investigative Interviews of children. SCRA are central to this, both in relation to child protection and also

children who have caused harm. We provide evaluations for evidence that has been elicited using the SCIM approach. This national group has just started, and will continue to strive for full implementation of the SCIM model, which is a key component of Bairns' Hoose.

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| 4.25 | National Youth Justice Advisory Group, | Contributing to the group's work in relation to children in conflict with the law, this work is ongoing |
| 4.26 | Prevent | Soft influencing role focused on raising the profile of our work and the children's hearings system when that is required. Information may need to be shared internally with the Head of Practice and Policy or with wider staff from this group. This group's work may now be taken over by the National Oversight Group mentioned above. |
| 4.27 | SG's Restorative Justice Strategic Group | ensuring the position of the reporter and hearings system is properly understood and reflected in the group's work |
| 4.28 | JII Governance Group, | Providing reports on reporters' evaluations of JIIs to contribute to the roll-out and embedding of the SCIM for JIIs
None – group now replaced by new National Oversight Group attended by Alistair |
| 4.29 | Redesign Planning Group | Working with partners in the Redesign Planning Group to agree the workstreams for the multiagency improvement work that sits as part of the overall work on the children's hearings system redesign.
SCRA is a trusted partner within the Redesign Planning Group (and the Redesign Board that sits above it in the governance structure), and it is anticipated that SCRA will continue to influence the shape of the workstreams and the quality and progress of the outputs from the workstreams. |
| 4.30 | Referrals Project activity | Learning Leads project has engaged partners across the multiagency to develop a consistent approach to learning materials about the role of the reporter and the children's hearings system. The uptake has been considerable and therefore there is a demonstrable impact on the multiagency in terms of supporting learning. The influence is around aiming to make the approach to learning more consistent and to remove the burden of delivering training regularly from localities. |
| 4.31 | Work with the Scottish Curriculum review for social sciences and PHAL – | Curriculum Review - Social Sciences. SCRA is a member of the Critical Friends group to support the curriculum content |

	Public Health Approach to Learning.	<p>of The Children's Hearing System in Scottish Modern Studies.</p> <p>PHAL - Public Health Approach to Learning.</p> <p>SCRA have had initial meetings and intend to engage in the next iteration of the pilot, to share data supporting the multi-agency outcomes and service provision. Ongoing engagement with both groups and influencing through contributions and data.</p>
4.32	SCRA/SG/SAIDOT joint working group on use of AI within the Children's Hearings System	<p>Ongoing gathering of research and consultation evidence on the ethics, rights and legalities of using AI within the Children's Hearings System are directly fed into policy and practice relating to the use of ethical, transparent and inclusive AI within children's services. SCRA have played an active role in testing of tools designed to promote transparency of AI usage within the public sector, including early adoption of the AI register.</p> <p>Sharing of public views on acceptable usage of AI within the children's hearings system should provide policy insights into how AI should be used and regulated within children's services.</p>
4.33	Scottish Contextual Safeguarding Core Group -	<p>Contextual safeguarding is a developing area of academic study which is having a real and practical impact across service delivery. SCRA continue to sit on the core group, which is supported by Child Protection Committees Scotland.</p>
4.34	SG group on implementation of the provisions on FGM prevention orders in the Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Act 2020	<p>ensuring the position of the reporter and hearings system is properly understood and reflected in the group's work</p>
4.35	SLWG revising pre-trial therapy guidance	<p>Ensuring the position of the reporter and hearings system is properly understood and reflected in the group's work, this work is ongoing</p>
4.36	Speech, Language and Communication Needs sub group	<p>SCRA sits on this sub group of the Children's Rights Implementation Group (CRIG) and the group meets quarterly, prior to the CRIG so it can feed into the CRIG discussions. SCLN sits across all of the work in SCRA and needs consideration at all stages. It has been a key feature of our 'letters project' where the work of a speech and language specialist has been invaluable. Moving forward, it</p>

will continue to be a key focus for us around wider communications, online and other information provision and in our work on child friendly scheduling and materials which are designed to suit a child's preferences. SCLN will also be a feature of the work in and around Courts as the provisions of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 and the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 are introduced.

4.37 **Subgroup of Child Protection Committees Scotland in relation to neglect**

ensuring the position of the reporter and hearings system is properly understood and reflected in the group's work, this work is ongoing

4.38 **Victim's Taskforce**

This group is largely focussed on the adult criminal justice system, but sometimes the hearing system needs to be considered too. Our presence ensures that we are not overlooked.

4.39 **Victims Taskforce – Improving Communications Working Group, Paul Harkness**

This group is largely populated by and designed to improve services within the Criminal Justice System. Nevertheless, since the needs of victims can be broadly similar regardless of whether it's the CJS or CHS, there are opportunities for learning for us by attendance. SCRA sometimes pick up on current thinking within and across agencies with whom we work. And we get the opportunity to highlight things that we think we do well.

4.40 **Youth Justice Improvement Board (YJIB)**

Whole Systems Approach sub-group

Significant SCRA involvement on this group, which provide governance, oversight and strategy for Scotland's approach to youth justice. This group will play a key role in overseeing the implementation of the CCJA, as well as monitoring the progress of the actions from the Youth Justice Strategy.

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