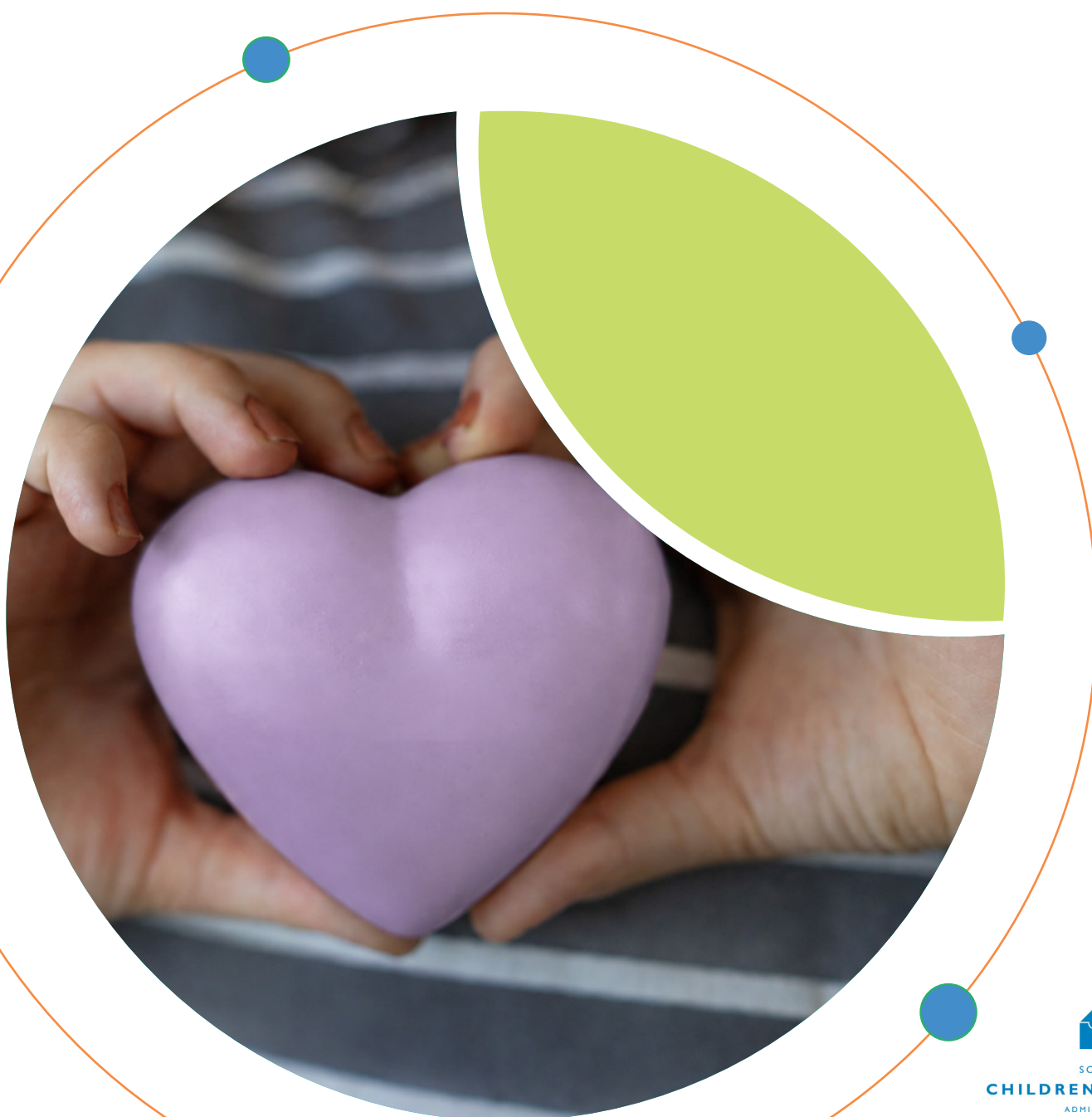


SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION

Annual Report for children and young people 2025/2026

Care, Connect, Protect



SCOTTISH
CHILDREN'S REPORTER
ADMINISTRATION

www.scra.gov.uk

Introduction

Every year, SCRA shares a report about the work we have been doing. This version has been written especially for children and young people.

We want to tell you about the changes we have made, what we have achieved, and how we have worked to make the Children's Hearings System better for children, young people and families. Everything we do is guided by children and young people's rights and

If you want more detailed information, you can view the full annual report on our website - www.scra.gov.uk

We hope you enjoy this report. Please [get in touch](#) with any comments or questions - we would love to hear from you!

Neil Hunter
Principal Reporter/Chief Executive



About us

SCRA helps make sure children and young people who may need care, protection or support can get the help they need through the Children's Hearings System.

Our vision is for children and young people in Scotland to be cared for, included, respected and safe, with opportunities for a positive future.

Our mission is to protect and uphold children's rights and make decisions in a compassionate, inclusive and trauma-informed way.



2025/26 in numbers

- 8,839 children and young people were referred to the Children's Reporter.
- 8,754 children had decisions made by a Reporter.
- 9,267 Children's Hearings took place.
- 1,696 children had a Pre-Hearing Panel.
- 1,912 Compulsory Supervision Orders were made.
- The most common age of referral was 14 years old.

These numbers represent children and young people across Scotland who needed support, protection or help through the Children's Hearings System.





What we're most proud of ...

■ Giving Hearings-experienced young people career opportunities

In February 2026 we appointed our 15th care experienced Modern Apprentice. Our new colleague is already working across the Tayside and Fife Locality in our Arbroath, Dundee and Perth offices, providing a wide range of services to children, young people and families as well as undertaking an SVQ in Business and Administration. In July 2025 we said goodbye to our sixth work experience candidate who moved on to permanent full time employment after a fantastic seven months of work experience and learning and development opportunities in our Stornoway office.

■ Helping children and young people be heard

This year we introduced Communi-crate, a new toolkit designed to help children and young people take part in Hearings in ways that work best for them. It includes communication aids, sensory

tools, noise-cancelling headphones, sunglasses and other resources to help children share their views, feelings and experiences. The toolkit was developed following feedback from children and young people.

We believe every child and young person should be able to participate in decisions that affect their life and Communi-crate is helping make that happen.

■ Making Hearings more child friendly

We continued introducing a new approach called Family Centred Scheduling. This means we try to find out:

- What day works best for you.
- What time works best for you.
- How you would like to attend your Hearing.
- What support you might need.

Children and young people also received scrapbooks and magazines created by young people from Our Hearings, Our Voice to help them prepare for

their Hearing and share what is important to them.

■ Working with young people

One of the most important ways we improve our services is by listening to people with lived experience.

Throughout the year, we worked with:

- Our Hearings, Our Voice.
- SCRA's Voice of Experience Reference Group.
- Local Champions Boards.
- Care-experienced young people.
- Children living in residential care.

Children and young people helped influence the design of Hearing rooms, digital services, trauma-informed practice and participation projects. Their ideas have directly shaped improvements across SCRA.

■ Better Hearing Centres

In 2025/26 a newly redesigned

Hearing Centre opened in Glasgow with more to follow!

Children and young people helped design the new space and told us what would make Hearings feel better and less intimidating. The new Hearing Centre includes:

- More welcoming spaces.
- Better waiting rooms.
- Improved technology.
- Calmer environments.
- Better facilities for everyone attending Hearings.

The new design will be used in the future to guide improvements in Hearing Centres across Scotland.

■ Standing Up for Children's Rights

Children's rights continued to guide our work. Following the incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scottish law, we reviewed how we work and looked for ways to make sure children's rights

What we're most proud of ...

■ Making SCRA more inclusive

We want all children, young people and families to feel welcome, valued and respected.

During the year we:

- Continued improving accessibility.
- Produced new British Sign Language resources.
- Introduced new learning about equality and inclusion.
- Achieved LGBT Youth Scotland's Charter Foundation Award.
- Worked to improve how we understand and record equality information so services can better meet people's needs.

■ Becoming more trauma-informed

Many children who come to Hearings have experienced difficult experiences in their lives. We continued working to become a more trauma-informed organisation so that children and families experience services that are kind, understanding and supportive. Staff continued

receiving specialist training and learning to help them better understand the impact of trauma and respond in ways that help people feel safe and respected.

■ New Learning for Professionals

This year saw the launch of the Learning Hub, a free online resource on our website designed to help people better understand the Children's Hearings System.

The Learning Hub includes information on:

- Children's Hearings.
- Referrals to the Children's Reporter.
- Referrals from Police Scotland.

Since its launch, more than 1,700 connections were made through Learning Hub webinars, helping professionals across Scotland better understand how to support children and young people.

■ Looking to the future

We are preparing for important changes to the Children's Hearings System.

New legislation will allow more 16 and 17-year-olds to receive support through the Children's Hearings System in future years. SCRA is getting ready by recruiting more staff, improving services and working with partners across Scotland.

We also want to continue improving:

- Children's participation.
- Children's rights.
- Trauma-informed practice.
- Digital services.
- Hearing environments.
- Support for children, young people and their families.



And finally ...

Thank you to every child and young person who shared their views, experiences and ideas with us this year. Your voices have helped shape lots of new initiatives and improvements. The work we do is better because of your participation.

Together, we are helping create a Children's Hearings System where children and young people feel listened to, respected, included and supported.

Remember

Your voice matters.

Your views matter.

Your rights matter.





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