



Seeing Beyond the Surface – update from SCRA one year on



Introduction

In October 2025, several members of staff from SCRA were honoured to attend the launch of your online guide Seeing Beyond the Surface. We were proud to join 120 Our Hearings, Our Voice supporters in the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow and celebrate your successes with you.

Feedback

Delegates included our Principal Reporter Neil Hunter and Alistair Hogg, SCRA's now retired Head of Practice and Policy. Speaking afterwards, Alistair said: "This was a truly inspiring event - organised and presented so brilliantly by the young people. This was a fitting celebration of all they have achieved over the last decade.

"The guide they have created is an incredible resource for anyone who is working with children and young people, and the event brought it superbly to life. Congratulations to all the young people, and to the wonderful people who support them in their work."



Informing our staff

Straight after the event finished, we posted a latest news item on the home page of our staff intranet Connect linking to the guide. It was also included in the weekly round-up which is emailed to all 500 members of staff in SCRA on Friday 24 October 2025.

We then posted an 'in case you missed it' news item in the weekly round-up on Friday 7 November 2025, to help increase awareness across the organisation.

In case you missed it...

Our Hearings, Our Voice recently launched a fantastic online resource. If you haven't had a chance, please check out [Seeing Beyond The Surface](#).

There is some extremely helpful information and resources around key themes such as language.



As well as sharing the guide electronically, we were keen to bring it to life for staff. To get us started, Karen Kruszewski, SCRA's Corporate Parenting Manager, worked with Gordon to arrange an online session in December 2025 which was open to SCRA staff across Scotland.

Colleagues tuned in virtually to hear about their new, interactive guide exploring what children and young people wish all adults knew.

Lisa Bennett, SCRA's Head of Strategy said: "A number of SCRA colleagues, including myself, were delighted to be at the launch event 'Rise Up', but we wanted to share the guide with all of our staff.

"A huge thank you to Board Members Abbie, Andrew and Ash, as well as Amy and Gordon from OHOV for coming along and really bringing the guide to life and hearing direct from you and other young people. It was a truly powerful and thought-provoking presentation."

Corporate Parenting workshops

During 2026, Karen Kruszewski, our Corporate Parenting Manager, and Amy from OHOV have been delivering Corporate Parenting workshops to SCRA teams across Scotland.



These interactive sessions explore SCRA's responsibilities as a Corporate Parent and encourage staff to reflect on how their individual roles and day-to-day practice can positively influence the experiences of children and young people. A key feature of the workshops is raising awareness of your guide.

During the workshops, staff have reflected on many of the issues raised in the guide, particularly the impact of the language used within the Children's Hearings System, as well as the barriers and opportunities that exist to delivering excellent Corporate Parenting practice.

By the end of 2026 Karen and Amy will have reached every SCRA locality and head office.

CHIP session in Fife

Inspired by the powerful messages within Seeing Beyond the Surface, SCRA's Glenrothes team were keen to share the guide with a wider audience of professionals working within the Children's Hearings System.

Working alongside OHOV Board Member Ciara and OHOV colleagues Amy and Gordon, the team delivered a workshop to the Fife Children's Hearings Improvement Partnership (CHIP).

During the session, Ciara shared the experiences and key messages behind the interactive guide, helping partners understand what matters most to children and young people involved in hearings.

CHIP members were deeply moved by both the messages and the artwork created by OHOV Board Members. As a result, the artwork is now being displayed in social work offices across Fife, helping to spark discussion and reflection among professionals.



Carron Bell, SCRA Locality Support Manager for Fife, said:

"The session was an excellent opportunity to understand the views of young people who have experience of Children's Hearings and understand what matters most to them.

The guide is such an incredibly powerful resource that helps focus our work on what really matters, so sharing it with our partners was a fantastic opportunity.

It was very special to see how inspired and motivated everyone in the room was by what we had seen and heard, and I am excited about the opportunities this creates to make things even better for children and young people."

In June, when Fiona Duncan, Independent Strategic Advisor for The Promise, visited Fife as part of her programme of visits across Scotland, SCRA's LRM in Fife took the opportunity to promote the guide during the visit.

A multi-agency session is now planned in Dundee to coincide with the official opening of the newly redesigned Hearing Centre at the end of October 2026.

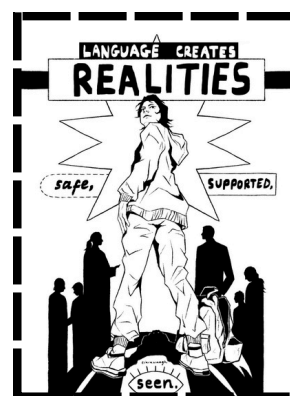
Travelling Art Gallery

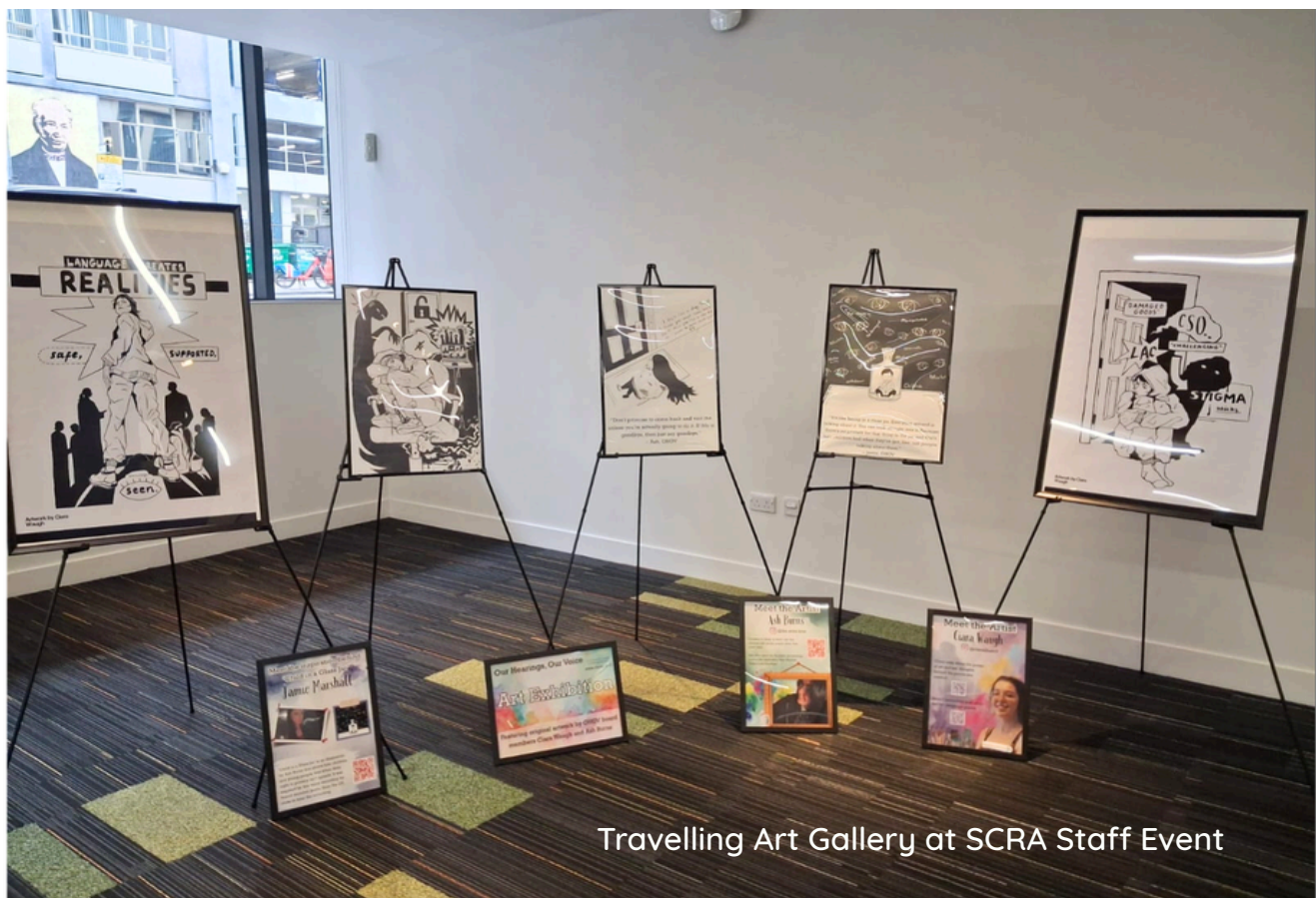
Following such positive feedback about the guide, SCRA has worked with OHOV to help share the messages from Seeing Beyond the Surface further by creating a Travelling Art Gallery.

The mobile exhibition showcases artwork created by OHOV Board Members, with each display featuring a QR code linking directly to the artist's statement. This allows viewers to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences and messages behind each piece.

The gallery celebrates the voices of care-experienced young people while recognising and thanking the OHOV Board Members for their invaluable contribution to improving the Children's Hearings System.

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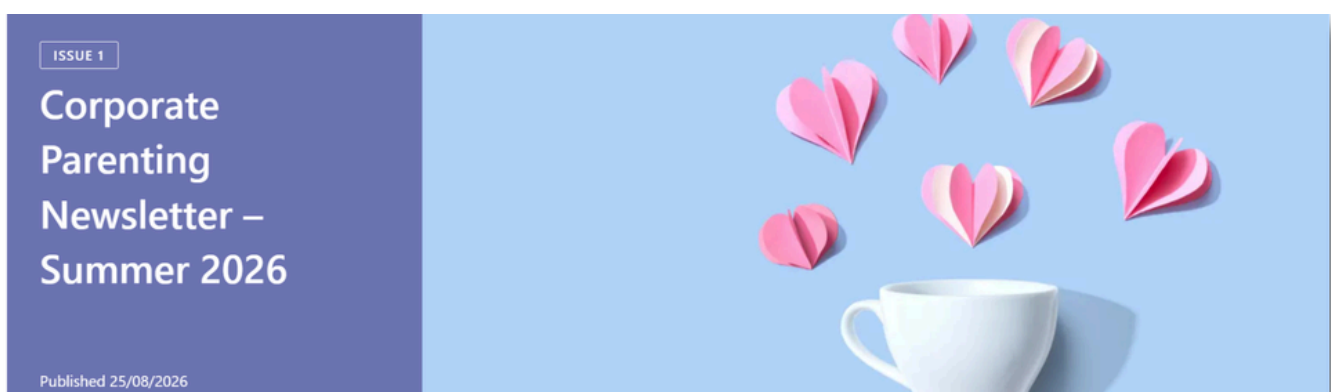


Travelling Art Gallery at SCRA Staff Event

SCRA's Corporate Parenting newsletter

Seeing Beyond the Surface was the top news item in the very first edition of our new Corporate Parenting newsletter which was issued to all SCRA staff at the start of September.

The aim was to remind all staff about the guide and how important it is. So far, almost 120 members of staff have read the newsletter.



SCRA Staff Event

On 8 October 2026, Lisa and Jamie from OHOV ran two workshops at our Staff Event. Around 200 members of staff and guests attended the event at Strathclyde University's Technology and Innovation Centre in Glasgow.

Jamie and Lisa led two sessions at the event which were extremely engaging and thought-provoking. (Both sessions were 'sold out' with no spaces left at either session!)

Using elements of the guide, they encouraged participants to reflect on the impact of the language and stigma and how both shape the experiences of children and young people.

Afterwards, one member of SCRA staff said: "I thought the OHOV workshop was fascinating and moving at times. I would really love if it could be passed back to the young women who presented, that the workshop was really informative, clear, moving and has given me a lot of food for thought."

In a feedback survey which was sent to delegates, everyone who attended the OHOV workshops said it was either excellent (most people) or very good.

In addition, the OHOV travelling art display also featured at our Staff Event with a display in the foyer area which delegates got to enjoy during the breaks. A number of staff commented on how thought provoking the art was.



SCRA Board Development Day

On 21 October, Ciara, Gordon, Amy and Karen delivered the workshop and displayed the travelling art gallery to the SCRA Board and EMT. The Board found the session thought-provoking, inspiring and impactful and most importantly, it left them reflecting on one simple but powerful question: How can we each do more to truly see beyond the surface?

Following the session, SCRA Board Members pledged one thing they will do as a result of this learning? Pledges included:

- To keep the “human” voice centre in Board activity.
- Always remember that when you are talking about care experience imagine that person is sitting on your shoulder! Re-Frame!
- Challenge stigmatising behaviour more often.
- Keep promoting this ethos, standards and focus across SCRA.

Reflecting on the past year

Karen Kruszewski, SCRA’s Corporate Parenting Manager said: “It’s hard to believe that Seeing Beyond the Surface: What children and young people wish all adults knew is already a year old. What has been really encouraging over the past year is seeing it move from being a powerful resource created by children and young people, to something that is prompting real conversations and reflection in practice.

“We’ve been using the guide in our Corporate Parenting workshops with SCRA staff, and its messages are also reaching partners across the Children’s Hearings System. A year on, the voices of children and young people continue to challenge us, inspire us and remind us to look beyond the surface and focus on what really matters to them.”

Jennifer Orren, SCRA’s Participation Lead added: “One year on from the launch of Seeing Beyond the Surface, OHOV board members should be incredibly proud to see the impact their messages continue to have. Over the past year we’ve been working hard to share key messages from the guide and create opportunities for staff to reflect on their practice and the difference each of us can make to children and young people.

“The challenge now is to keep that momentum going and ensure children and young people’s voices continue to shape how we work every day. In addition, we will continue to share with partners and keep spreading the word about the guide.”



Any questions or comments?

If you have any questions or have any feedback, please get in touch with [Karen](#) or [Jennifer](#) at SCRA. We would love to hear from you. Or you can ask Amy and Gordon to contact us on your behalf.

THANK YOU!



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