

Bairns' Hoose

Children and Young People Participation and Engagement Plan

Easy Read Version



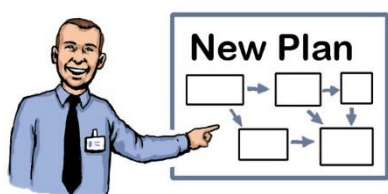
Bairns' Hoose

June 2023

1. Introduction



Children and young people have a right to be heard about decisions that affect them. Children and young people have a right to have their say and to receive information.



To make sure this happens, we have made this Bairns' Hoose Engagement Plan. It shows how we plan to reach and involve children and young people in the Bairns' Hoose project.



A Bairns' Hoose will be a child-friendly, safe and welcoming place for children. They will go there when a concern about them has been raised. This would be for:



- Children who have been victims or witnesses to abuse or violence.
- Young children whose behaviour may have caused serious harm or abuse.



The Bairns' Hoose model will work with Scottish Government programmes of Keeping The Promise and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). These are designed to see that children get the right help at the right time in the right place.



This document plans for involving and reaching children and young people in setting up the Bairns' Hoose in Scotland. This includes what we have already done and why. It says what we still have to do.

2. Children and Young People – How we reach them and get them involved

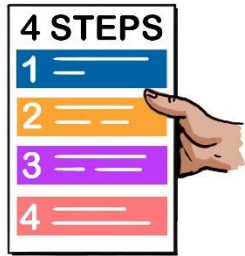


We have talked to a range of organisations and staff with experience and skills in working with children and young people.



The organisations told us that different people should be involved in different ways.

We heard about a range of experiences of children and young people.



The organisations told us that we must use the right approach to get children and young people involved. This means thinking about:



- **Space**

Children and young people must be given a safe space to make decisions and share their views.



- **Voice**

Children and young people must be helped to share their views.



- **Audience**

The views of children and young people must be listened to.



- **Influence**

The views of children and young people must be acted upon if that is the right thing to do.

3. What we have done up to now

Rights and Participation Project



From 2019 – 2022 the Scottish Government funded a charity called Children 1st to work with children and families with experience of child protection and justice processes. The things they learned included:



- Children have a right to be heard when they have been a victim or witness of violence. The right place, the right people and the right support are needed.



- Children and families should have opportunities to take part in designing services.

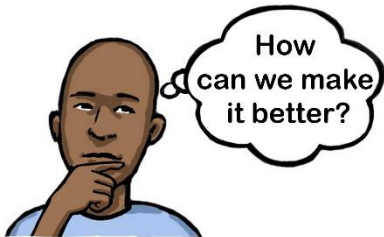
The Changemakers Project



We continued funding Children 1st through 2022-23 for the Changemakers project. The project is:



- Listening to children and young people who have experience of child protection and justice systems. This will help us make big improvements for children in the future. It will help them recover from the point when a concern has been raised.



- Creating safe spaces for children and young people and their parents/carers to take part in designing the Bairns' Hoose.

Creative workshops



Children 1st ran creative workshops. These were to find out what matters to children, young people and their families in setting up the North Strathclyde Bairns' Hoose.



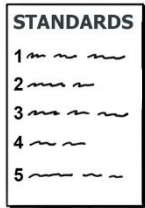
The sessions invited families to share their ideas, views, and wishes on what a Bairns' Hoose should look like. There were 8 workshops across Scotland with 79 people taking part.

Individual participation



Individual participation gives children and young people the chance to share their stories, ideas, feedback and experiences. For some children and young people, sharing their story helps their recovery.

Bairns' Hoose Standards



Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and the Care Inspectorate made a set of Standards for Scotland's Bairns' Hoose. Children and young people helped to develop these.



In 2022, 6 organisations helped children to take part in developing the Standards. Each organisation had a link worker who helped children get involved.

European Barnahus Quality Standards



The European Barnahus Quality Standards are respected around the world. They were used as a key part of developing our plans for a Scottish Bairns' Hoose.

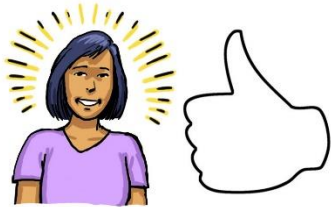


Using these Quality Standards to develop the Scottish Standards has made sure that our version is based on rights and good information. This will help it to meet the needs of children and young people.

What we have learned so far



The HIS project team asked the link workers how the work had been going so far. Their feedback told us that:



- The children and young people involved were proud to say that they built the children's version of the standards.



- A number of organisations involved now have a group of young people that they talk with regularly about issues affecting them.



- This work has been useful for finding out the best ways to reach out to children and young people and keep them involved.



- Young people with experience of the current system felt it was good to use their experiences to make the future better for others.



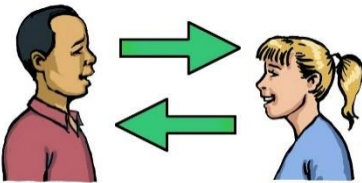
It takes time to find and bring together a group of young people to talk about an emotional and complicated subject like the Bairns' Hoose.



Time and space help the children and young people to build trust and become comfortable. As time went by the link workers found the young people became more comfortable and confident in talking about the standards.

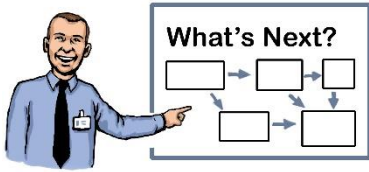


It was important to let the children and young people work at their own speed and let them think about the subject in a way that was right for them. The project team were flexible about how the key messages from the Standards Development Group were fed back .



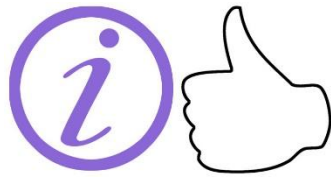
The children and young people were good at taking their experience and saying how it could have been made better for them.

4. Next Steps



We will take a number of actions forward. This includes putting this plan into action.

Bairns' Hoose Standards



Link workers told us that children and young people find images a more interesting way of getting information. Posters and postcards have been created and these will be made available with the written material about the Standards.

Bairns' Hoose Pathfinders



Partner organisations that will be setting up a Scottish Bairns' Hoose in a local area will be called Pathfinders. We will make a set of rules for Pathfinders and how children and young people will be involved.



Children and young people, through link workers, will be involved in looking at applications from Pathfinders. Healthcare Improvement Scotland will work with partner agencies to make sure children and young people are supported and informed to give their views.



Important information will be given in a way and format that is right for them.

Work on Bairns' Hoose. How it is managed.



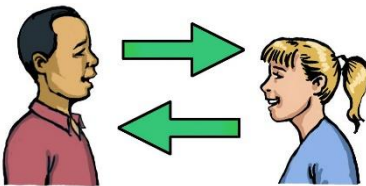
The National Bairns' Hoose Governance Group (NBHGG) will give advice and help with the work that is done to set up Bairns' Hoose. They will do this with the rights of the child in mind. They will work to deliver justice, care and recovery.



The NBHGG gives specialist knowledge to make sure we get the best national Bairns' Hoose model for Scotland.

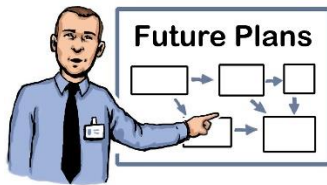


One of the main jobs of the NBHGG is to make sure the voices of children, young people and their families are heard. Their experiences will be used to help build national Bairns' Hoose model.

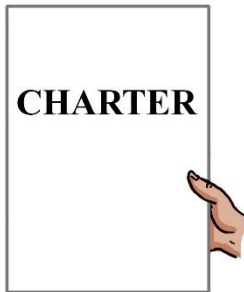


The NBHGG has sent update videos to children and young people involved in the work to make sure communication is 2-way.

Further Actions



Through both the link workers and the Changemakers project, we will also:



- Work with children and young people to develop a children's charter. This will outline how they will be involved in setting the Standards to develop the Bairns' Hoose system.



- Get children and young people's views on the name Bairns' Hoose.



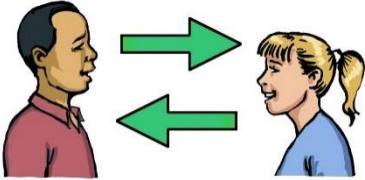
- Involve children and young people to develop the new Scottish Government Bairns' Hoose website.



- Hold an event to celebrate how much all the children and young people and their families have done to help.



We could not have developed the Bairns' Hoose in Scotland without the help and involvement of children and young people. They have helped us to understand their experiences and how we can make services better.



We will review this plan with input from children and young people. We will continue this through all development.



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