

Consultation: Children's Services Planning

**Provision of
Statutory Guidance**

March 2019



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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Overview

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, placed a requirement on Local Authorities and Health Boards to present evidence to the Scottish Government in a Children Services Plan which clearly sets out and demonstrates the actions planned, taken and delivered to improve outcomes for our children and young people in their area. The first statutory Children Service's Plans were submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2017.

Why we are consulting

In advance of the next reporting cycle, and to support the programme of strategic engagement with local children's services partners, the Scottish Government wishes to formally consult to test whether the content, scope and format of the statutory guidance is still helpful, fit for purpose or whether this should be modified, amended or improved to further enhance and build on the support available. The consultation is available here:

<https://consult.gov.scot/children-and-families/review-statutory-guidance-part-3/>

The responses to this consultation will be analysed and collated with the findings and advice being submitted to Scottish Ministers for consideration. The consultation will close on 17 June 2019. If you have any questions about the consultation please contact Rab Mackay on 0131 244 8055 or email C&F.StrategicEngagement@gov.scot.

Consultation questions

1. Does the statutory guidance provided to date assist in the effective development of a Children Services Plan?
 Yes No
2. What part(s) of the guidance were most helpful or least helpful? How could the guidance be enhanced to strengthen the effective development of a Children's Services Plan?

3. Does the statutory guidance provide sufficient advice on how widely you should consult in advance of developing a Children Service Plan?

Yes No

How could the guidance be improved to enable effective consultation and engagement with local stakeholders during the preparation of a Children's Services Plan?

4. Do you agree that the guidance supports, enhances and strengthens inter-agency collaboration?

Yes No

How could the guidance be enhanced to emphasise the importance of multi/inter agency integrated collaboration in the preparation of the Plan and the delivery of services?

5. Does the statutory guidance support practitioners and staff in delivering the contents of the Children Service Plan?

Yes No

How could the statutory guidance be enhanced to enable the Plan to support practitioners and operational managers deliver the local priorities and actions?

Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 17 June 2019.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/children-and-families/review-statutory-guidance-part-3/>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 17 June 2019.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form to:

Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser
Strategic Engagement Team
Scottish Government
2 B South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at C&F.StrategicEngagement@gov.scot .

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.



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RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
<https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes No



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