

**getting
it right**
for every child

Children and Young People's Voices Matter!

Progress report on actions agreed at the
Cabinet meeting with children and young people,
March 2020

#CabinetTakeover



Scottish Government
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INTRODUCTION

Our fourth annual meeting of Cabinet members and children and young people was held on 3 March 2020 at Bute House, Edinburgh.



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Seven Members of the **Children's Parliament**

(MCPs) attended. They were Haris (11), Harry (10), Kelly (12), Kristers (12), Milosz (12), Teeda (10) and Sophie (10).

Seven Members of the **Scottish Youth Parliament** (MSYPs) also attended. They were:

Jack Dudgeon (21, Chair, Eastwood), Josh Kennedy (18, Vice Chair, Renfrewshire North), Liam Fowley (18, Trustee, Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley), Caitie Dundas (17, Trustee, Inverness and Nairn), Revati Campbell (18, Convener of Equalities and Human Rights Committee, Dundee West), Thea Tjolle (17, Convener of External Affairs, UK and International Relations Committee, Cowdenbeath) and Wiktoria Orlka (18, Convener of Culture and Media Committee, Wishaw).

At this meeting MCPs and MSYPs represented children and young people's views from across Scotland and talked about issues that were important to them. Our [film](#) about the meeting gives more information.

As you will be aware the first positive case of COVID-19 in Scotland was confirmed on 1 March 2020. As a result many projects were paused, so that we could respond to the pandemic. This also meant we

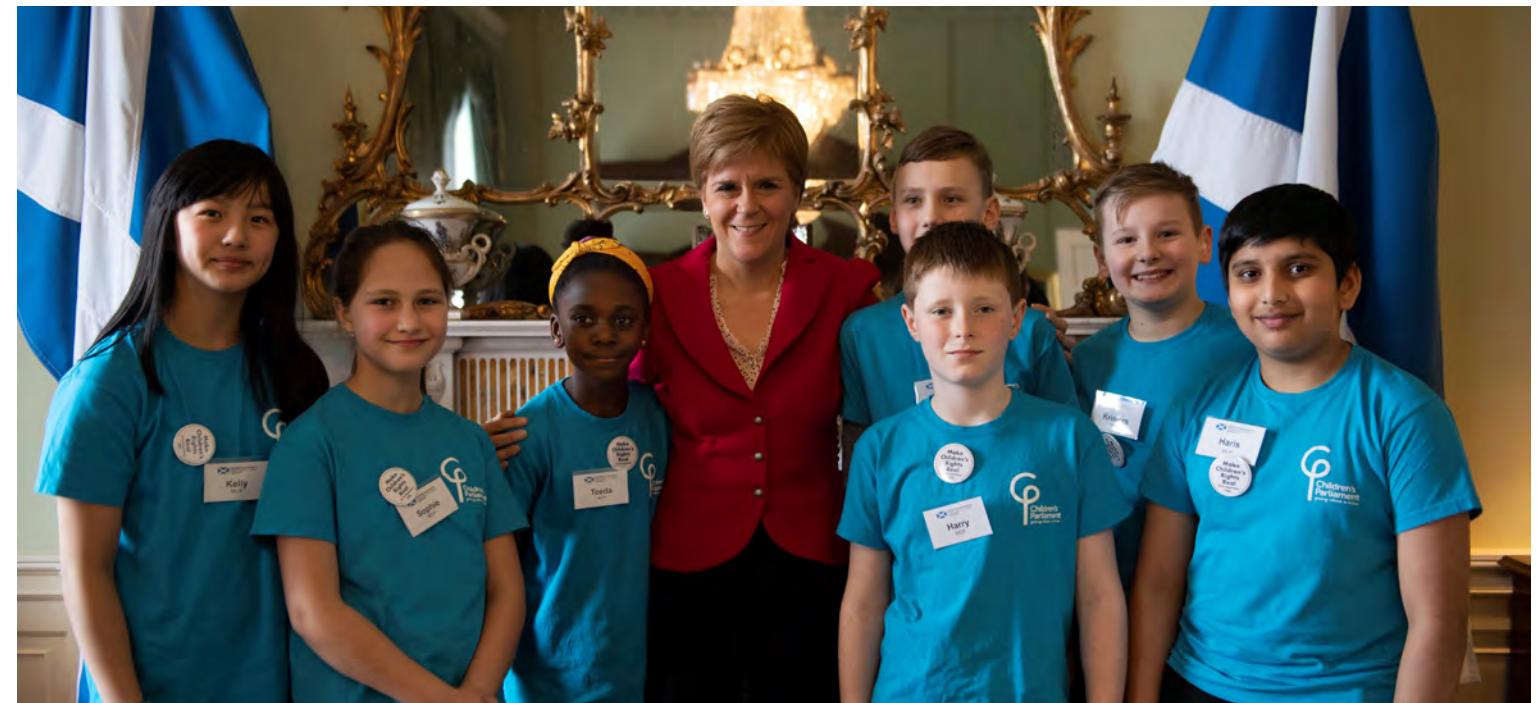
were not able to act on all the issues raised at the meeting at this time. However these issues have not been forgotten, and will be considered when making future policy decisions. We have worked hard to keep in touch with Children's Parliament, Scottish Youth Parliament and other organisations to make sure the voices of children and young people continue to be listened to during this difficult time as we learn and recover from COVID-19.



After the meeting ended, everyone agreed on a set of actions for the year ahead (as set out on page 6-7). These actions have been taken forward by the Scottish Government. This report covers the main areas of progress on these 13 actions. However, it does not include all the activity that has taken place. We would like to thank all the others who have helped to progress this year's actions but have not been included in this report.

It is fantastic to see so much progress being made in realising children's rights in Scotland over the last few years. A snapshot of progress made on raising awareness of children's rights, incorporating the UNCRC into Scots Law, travel costs for children and young people and bereavement support in schools can be found on pages 18-21.

More information about some of these actions can be found in our recently published Progress Report on '[Progressing the Human Rights of Children in Scotland: An Action Plan 2018 – 2021](#)'. For more information on participation please visit our [Decision-making: children and young people's participation](#) webpages.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO THIS REPORT

Quotes from Scottish Youth Parliament

Jack Dudgeon MSYP

"The annual meeting between the Cabinet and children and young people is a unique and valuable way for us to relay the priorities of our generation to decision-makers. That the Scottish Government have committed to continuing the meeting on an annual basis for this parliamentary term is very positive, and I hope it becomes a permanent fixture of the Government's calendar.

Although not all of our suggestions are acted on in the way we would like, which is most of the time understandable, the Government have taken forward some very significant pieces of work over the past five-year period which have benefited children and young people - perhaps most notably, agreeing to incorporate the UNCRC.

The format of the meeting can be intimidating and more time to discuss the agenda would always be welcome. I understand that would be very challenging given Cabinet members' busy schedules, but I think a longer event which featured a detailed discussion of the issues presented would be welcome."

Josh Kennedy MSYP

"Scotland is leading the world in the advancing of children and young people's rights with the incorporation of the UNCRC, which has been a key campaign focus of the Scottish Youth Parliament for a number of years now.

As we enter this crucial phase of transforming Scotland into a rights-respecting society, it is important to reflect on what got us to this point. Having the opportunity to engage directly at the highest level of decision-making in Scotland undoubtedly helped us to voice the views of our young people on this and allowed for a meaningful dialogue

to take place with government.

The annual Cabinet meeting with children and young people, for me, and I am sure for many others has been a standout moment in highlighting the Scottish Government's continued commitment to engaging with young people, and its pursuance of upholding Article 12 of the UNCRC. The very event itself is a testament to that, where young people can directly challenge decision-makers and often influence policy.

I cannot overstate the importance of this event, and the lasting impacts it too has had on those lucky enough as to have been able to attend."

Wiktoria Orlicka

"Going to the Cabinet and speaking on behalf of young people and young carers was an amazing experience. I totally didn't expect to be picked but that event and opportunity holds a place in my heart and I'll never forget it. It's been an amazing

time going and preparing my speech and having the ministers listen and take in as well as ask questions. Cabinet meeting was always something I wanted to take part in whenever someone mentioned it but I never believed I'd be able to do it. It felt so empowering when I did get to speak around the table, and I felt extremely proud of myself and the rest of the team for doing such an amazing work!

I'll never forget that day and I still remember reading out my speech to my young carer youth workers, who were also so impressed. I'd recommend going or even say that the opportunity of going is amazing and no one will ever regret getting to do that, I certainly didn't."

Thea Tjolle MSYP

"I loved that the Ministers were so interested in what we had to say. I felt like they respected our expertise of the problems which we spoke about and we were able to discuss concrete solutions."

Quotes from Children's Parliament

"Personally, I gained a lot of confidence. Yeah, confidence ... and being able to meet other people and ... to have fun." – MCP age 11

"I think everything was good but I just wish we had more time, so we could say more things." – MCP age 11

"They listened to us really well and I think they talked about it a lot after the meeting; the whole room was silent and let us talk for about 15 minutes." – MCP age 10

"I thought the meeting room would be this humungous table where you couldn't hear people at the other side but it wasn't exactly like that. I could hear everybody. The [lunch space] was a good space but there was a lot of people so it could have been a bit bigger." – MCP age 9

"I felt good, happy and nice – meeting Nicola Sturgeon and having my friends along with me." – MCP age 9

"I think I feel more secure about myself [since the meeting]. Talking about the issues has helped me." – MCP age 9

"I hope the government does more to make school dinners less expensive and more accessible for everyone to get." – MCP age 9

"I feel like I've made new friends and I've got better at talking when there's quite a lot of people. I felt nervous in the meeting at the start but it got easier because I knew it wasn't just going to be me who was talking." – MCP age 9

"[The lunch session] was great because it was just like everyone not being serious and just letting us know that they're actually people and have a life beyond their job." – MCP age 12

"So it was really good and ... you could see everyone. I think the seating was really good. The only thing that could change was that all the MCPs had someone they could sit next to that was important, if you get what I mean." – MCP age 11

"I think that it was helpful that John Swinney reviewed over all the things that were said and he showed that they were taken into account and that they'll do something." – MCP age 11

"It was a great privilege, and I was a bit nervous because it was so important. The topics we raised were so important for everyone, so I did feel nervous about doing it but I kind of felt empowered as well." – MCP age 12

"I felt ready and prepared and looking forward to it! That really helped me. We did lots to prepare for the meeting and we met plenty of times." – MCP age 12



AGREED ACTIONS

1	We will issue a public consultation on potential alcohol marketing restrictions in 2021; proposals will be aimed at protecting children and young people in Scotland. We will ensure that children and young people's views inform our consultation proposals and that their views on alcohol are listened to and influence wider Scottish Government policy, including on alcohol visibility. Page 8	5	We will continue our work to ensure people have access to locally produced and nutritious food, recognising the importance of sustainable household incomes. This includes our commitment to working with Food Standards Scotland and Public Health Scotland to support a targeted approach to improve healthier eating for people with low incomes. Page 12
2	We will continue to work with COSLA and local authorities to support strategies to reduce the nuisance and disorder often associated with public drinking and to protect our children and young people, including the use of alcohol byelaws. Page 9	6	Schools should continue to ensure that learning environments promote positive behaviour in pupils and teachers, addressing disruptive behaviour through discussion. Page 13
3	We want to ensure that all children have access to healthy and nutritious food at school. Page 10	7	We will work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to ensure that a commitment to trust and respect is embedded in the Professional Standards for teachers. Page 13
4	We will continue to work with partners on strategies to support young people to access nutritious meals, activities and other support outside of the school day and during the school holidays, building on and sharing good practice. Page 11	8	We will work with relevant partners to increase awareness of existing opportunities and make support available for young people and other community groups to carry out their own local projects to reduce the impact of littering and increase community pride in their local area. Page 14

9	We will consult young people on how to reduce the use of plastic and where possible consider a full or partial ban for certain products in Scotland. Page 14	12	We are committed to listening to children and young people's views and taking account of their views. We will support young people to meet with COSLA to discuss their concerns around the cuts to youth work budgets. Page 16
10	We will listen to all voices on the value of plastic and set out strong policy that puts the environment first and tackles the throwaway culture for single-use plastics. Page 14	13	We will continue to support the national roll-out of Housing First, building on the learning from the pathfinder programme in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling. Page 17
11	We will work with young carers to ensure that they can access the right help, advice and signposting to support their mental health and wellbeing. This includes supporting opportunities for direct engagement with Young Carer MSYPs in relation to this work. Page 15		



PROGRESS ON AGREED ACTIONS

A CHILDHOOD FREE OF ALCOHOL

1

We will issue a public consultation on potential alcohol marketing restrictions in 2021; proposals will be aimed at protecting children and young people in Scotland. We will ensure that children and young people's views inform our consultation proposals and that their views on alcohol are listened to and influence wider Scottish Government policy, including on alcohol visibility.

Work is ongoing to develop proposals for our alcohol marketing consultation in 2021. The [Children's Parliament report on An Alcohol-Free Childhood](#) will directly influence our proposals, as will the [Young Scot Health Panel's report on alcohol marketing](#), published in November 2020. In both of these reports, children and young people told us that alcohol is too visible, and advertised too heavily and recommended that we take action to restrict this. We are also working with partners on how best to seek the views of children and young people around our specific consultation proposals.



2

We will continue to work with COSLA and local authorities to support strategies to reduce the nuisance and disorder often associated with public drinking and to protect our children and young people, including the use of alcohol byelaws.



We welcome the Children's Parliament's interest in drinking alcohol in public and agree that public drinking can have negative effects on the quality of life for residents. However the rules around drinking in public spaces are made by councils through local alcohol byelaws. Therefore, the decisions regarding whether or not people can drink in public spaces or parks would be for individual local authorities, and not for Scottish Ministers to make.

There have been some extra regulations in relation to public drinking and the COVID-19 pandemic. These are exceptional circumstances rather than day-to-day business, and this national approach would not be appropriate in 'normal' times.

However, officials have been in touch with COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) about this and they have suggested that the Children's Parliament write directly to Cllr Stephen McCabe, COSLA Children and Young People spokesperson, asking him if there is anything he can do to raise awareness of the Children's Parliament report on An Alcohol-Free Childhood, and to ensure that the concerns around public drinking from children are fed into local authority engagement processes.

Additionally, officials raised the issue of public drinking and children not feeling safe at a meeting with the [Scottish Community Safety Network](#), who work with Community Safety Partners/Local Authorities etc. on community safety matters, including antisocial behaviour. They have not been involved in any issues in relation to children's safety with public drinking. However, they were aware of the [Children's Parliament report on An Alcohol-Free Childhood](#) which discusses "every child has the right to grow up safe from alcohol harm".



FOOD SECURITY IN SCOTLAND

3

We want to ensure that all children have access to healthy and nutritious food at school.

In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on thousands of families, we have provided additional funding to local authorities to enable the continued provision of free school meals during school closures and school holidays.

The new school food and drink regulations will begin on 8 April 2021, strengthening current provision and further helping to make sure children and young people have access to balanced and nutritious food and drink at school.

The new regulations include action to realise the 2016 manifesto commitment, “School food regulations will be reviewed to make sure all primary school children have access to at least five of their ‘5 a Day’ each day through school meals or healthy snacks such as fruit”. **Statutory guidance** to support local authorities to implement the new regulations was published on 10 February 2021.

A [school meals page](#) is now available on the [Parent Club](#) website.



We will continue to work with partners on strategies to support young people to access nutritious meals, activities and other support outside of the school day and during the school holidays, building on and sharing good practice.

In 2019-20 we invested £2 million in tackling food insecurity during school holidays, following our [2019 Programme for Government](#) commitment to speed up action in this area. The funding was focused on supporting third sector and local authority activities, including trying new ways of doing things, measuring the success of activities, and gathering learning to help policy and practice development in offering meals and activities during school holidays.

We have created a new Access to Childcare Fund, worth £3 million across 2020-22 to test new models of school age childcare that will be accessible, flexible and affordable for families on low incomes. The fund aims to support projects to deliver a range of activities, childcare, food and family support for children, including those from the six priority family types in the [Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#). Projects will look at these models, including holiday provision and specialist services for children with additional support needs, to understand how we can increase access for families most likely to be living in poverty.

During the pandemic over £50 million has been available to local authorities to continue the delivery of free school meals over school closures and holidays up to Easter holidays 2021. Local authorities have

been encouraged to take a “cash first” approach and the majority have been providing free school meal replacement in the form of direct payments, allowing families the dignity of being able to choose the food they need.

Through the Best Start Foods we are providing direct financial support to pregnant women and low income families with young children (under the age of three). Best Start Foods provides eligible families with a minimum of £4.25 a week, via a payment card, to purchase healthy foods.

The Scottish Child Payment started on 15 February. The impact of the payment is expected to be a “game changer”, helping up to 163,000 eligible children in 2021-22 at a cost of £68 million. It will provide £40 every four weeks for each eligible child, with no limit on the number of children that can be claimed for.

Our Scottish Child Payment together with Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods will provide over £5,200 of financial support for families by the time their first child turns six. For second and further children this will provide over £4,900.



We will continue our work to ensure people have access to locally produced and nutritious food, recognising the importance of sustainable household incomes. This includes our commitment to working with Food Standards Scotland and Public Health Scotland to support a targeted approach to improve healthier eating for people with low incomes.

Since March 2020 the Scottish Government has invested over £140 million to support people struggling to access or afford food because of the pandemic. Where people are able to get to the shops we have promoted a cash first approach to food insecurity, focused on maximising household incomes and improving access to crisis

payments such as through our £22 million additional funding for the Scottish Welfare Fund.

In our [2020 Programme for Government](#) we recognised that joined-up partnership working in response to COVID-19 has brought together the strengths of different sectors at a local level, and we committed to work with the [Social Renewal Advisory Board](#) to consider how this can be developed further. The report of the Board was published in January 2021 and included recommendations to develop local food partnerships to support local food systems and lessen the need for food banks through improved access to income maximisation and wider support. Work is underway to consider these recommendations and what can be done in the short term and medium term to take them forward.

Income maximisation support means help looking at what money is available from government or other organisations to help you, based on your situation. It can also mean help looking at ways to save and manage money.

We provide core funding totalling £92,000 to four Community Food Networks ([Lanarkshire Community Food & Health Partnership](#), [Glasgow Community Food Network](#), [Community Food Initiatives North East](#) and [Edinburgh Community Food](#)). In response to greater demands for these networks' services during the pandemic, we asked for bids from them for proposals that take a targeted approach to improve healthier eating for people with low incomes, including by raising awareness, in culturally appropriate ways, of how they can eat more healthily. This additional funding comes to a total of £98,408.

Good Food Nation

Our work on food insecurity is part of our work towards Scotland becoming a Good Food Nation. The vision of this is about making a real and positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland by helping to improve their access to, and understanding of, the benefits of healthy local foods; ensuring sustainability of our wonderful food industry; and looking to grow Scotland's reputation as a Good Food Nation from which other countries can learn.

Our Programme of Measures – published in September 2018 and updated in [November 2019](#) – confirms the great work being done across Government to deliver on our Good Food Nation goal. The Programme of Measures provides information on the wide range of work that is ongoing throughout Scotland across five key areas of health, social justice, knowledge, environmental sustainability and prosperity.

CHILDREN'S HUMAN DIGNITY AT SCHOOL

6	Schools should continue to ensure that learning environments promote positive behaviour in pupils and teachers, addressing disruptive behaviour through discussion.
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We are continuing work to develop new national human rights-based guidance on the use of physical intervention, such as restraint and seclusion, in schools. The guidance is expected to be published in 2021.

The Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools has continued to meet and provide advice and information on approaches to positive behaviour and relationships in school.

7	We will work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to ensure that a commitment to trust and respect is embedded in the Professional Standards for teachers.
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In January 2021 the General Teaching Council for Scotland published **a revised suite of Professional Standards for Teachers in Scotland**. These refreshed Professional Standards now include a section called “being a teacher in Scotland” which highlights the professional values of social justice, trust and respect and integrity as being at the heart of what it means to be a teacher in Scotland. These Standards are the mandatory requirements for registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland and will start being used from 2 August 2021.

Extract from the revised Professional Standards:

Trust and Respect

Trust and respect are expectations of positive actions that support authentic relationship building and show care for the needs and feelings of the people involved and respect for our natural world and its limited resources.

- Promoting and engendering a rights-respecting culture and the ethical use of authority associated with one’s professional roles.
- Acting and behaving in ways that develop a culture of trust and respect for self, others and the natural world.
- Understanding, acknowledging, and respecting the contribution of others in positively influencing the lives of learners.
- Understanding health and wellbeing and the importance of positive and purposeful relationships to provide and ensure a safe and secure environment for all learners and colleagues within a caring and compassionate ethos.
- Respecting individual difference and supporting learners’ understanding of themselves, others and their contribution to the development and sustainability of a diverse and inclusive society.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION LEVELS

8 We will work with relevant partners to increase awareness of existing opportunities and make support available for young people and other community groups to carry out their own local projects to reduce the impact of littering and increase community pride in their local area.

We are considering next steps in reviewing our **National Litter Strategy** which is at the end of its five-year life span. As part of this process we will engage with relevant stakeholders on how to improve education and messaging and make support available to young people to reduce the impact of littering.

9 We will consult young people on how to reduce the use of plastic and where possible consider a full or partial ban for certain products in Scotland.

Our **consultation** on introducing market restrictions on single-use plastics items in Scotland closed on 4 January. The responses are now being studied and will be considered in our policy decisions.

Before the consultation the Expert Panel for Environmental Charging and Other Measures, which included a Youth Leadership and 2050 Climate Group representative, reported their findings on **principles that can be used to reduce the dependence on single-use items in society**.

We will also consider how to ensure young people are given the chance to offer their views in future consultations on single-use cup charges.

10 We will listen to all voices on the value of plastic and set out strong policy that puts the environment first and tackles the throwaway culture for single-use plastics.

We will carry out a public consultation of the draft regulations to allow all members of the public to have their say on how best to tackle the throwaway culture for single-use plastics.

Depending on the results of the consultation, we intend to introduce legislation in 2021 restricting the use of single-use plastic items most commonly found littered on European beaches.



YOUNG CARERS' MENTAL HEALTH

11

We will work with young carers to ensure that they can access the right help, advice and signposting to support their mental health and wellbeing. This includes supporting opportunities for direct engagement with Young Carer MSYPs in relation to this work.

A dedicated page to young carers' wellbeing and mental health is being developed for the National Wellbeing Hub, which already includes a page for **adult unpaid carers**. This is being done in collaboration with a focus group of young carers, supported by **Carers Trust Scotland**. This group of young carers also includes two Young Carer MSYPs. We hope to launch the page by spring.

We have also now provided a total of £300,000 in extra funding for the **Young Scot young carer package** this year. This additional funding is to help support young carers' wellbeing and enable them to take some form of a break. Recently the package has been able to offer e-vouchers, subscriptions to streaming services and wellbeing boxes. Young Scot continue to adapt and change what the package offers based on young carers' feedback on what they need to support themselves.



YOUTH WORK BUDGET CUTS

12

We are committed to listening to children and young people's views and taking account of their views. We will support young people to meet with COSLA to discuss their concerns around the cuts to youth work budgets.

We have contacted the Children and Young People's policy officer at COSLA in order to help organise a meeting with MSYPs.

We are continuing to refresh the National Youth Work Strategy which will be published later this year.

We are supporting the return of youth work following the pandemic through the youth work education recovery fund. This additional investment will help young people who have been most affected by the pandemic to regain confidence and continue with their learning journey.



HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

13

We will continue to support the national roll-out of Housing First, building on the learning from the pathfinder programme in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling.

Housing First offers settled accommodation and wrap-around support to people with multiple and complex needs.

By the end of January 2021, 426 tenancies had started in the five Housing First “pathfinder” or pilot areas. We continue to support the national roll-out of Housing First across Scotland and other local authorities have now developed Housing First programmes. Some areas have specific Housing First for Youth projects, including in West Lothian, Fife and Aberdeen. A range of partner organisations are supporting this work, including the [Rock Trust](#), [Almond Housing Association](#) and [Aberdeen Foyer](#).



NEW PROGRESS UPDATES FROM CABINET TAKEOVER 2019:

Action: Building on the Programme for Government 2018 – 2019 commitment, Ministers announced their intention to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law.

On 1 September 2020, the **UNCRC Bill** was introduced to Scottish Parliament that will incorporate the UNCRC into the law of Scotland. The reason for doing this is that we want Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up and we want all children and young people to grow up loved, safe and respected.

Incorporation means children's rights will be legally protected in Scotland. It will mean that public authorities must take steps to respect children's rights in their decisions and actions. This includes producing child-friendly reports which explain what they have been doing to respect children's rights and what they plan to do to improve.

Children and young people will have to be involved and listened to in decisions about their own lives and communities. It will also mean that children, young people and their representatives will be able to use courts in Scotland to enforce their rights.

Since introduction in September, the Equalities and Human Rights Committee in Scottish Parliament have listened to a wide variety of people, including children and young people, on what they think of the Bill. The Committee produced several reports including [a report](#) for children and young people. The Scottish Government responded to the committee with a [stage 1 report](#).

The Bill must pass through 3 stages before it gains Royal Assent and becomes law. The Bill passed stage 1 in January and completed stage 2 on 11 February. This included a decision to amend the Bill to commence 6 months after Royal Assent. This means that children's rights could be part of Scots law this year!

The third and final stage of the Bill will take place in March. Scottish Government will continue to work with public authorities like schools and the police to make sure that the Bill changes culture and children and young people's rights are consistently respected, protected and fulfilled.

More information about our progress on this action can be found on our [Children's Rights webpage](#).



Action: We will raise awareness and understanding of children's rights across all age groups in Scotland (e.g. Article 42) through our co-production programme.

As part of our awareness raising programme, [Young Scot](#) and [Children in Scotland](#), in partnership with children and young people, have launched [#ActivateYourRights](#) supported by the Scottish Government. Through a range of activities and workshops, these resources help educators support children and young people to understand their rights and to recognise when they are being upheld, whilst encouraging children and young people to defend their rights and ask for support to ensure they are recognised. A focus group of teachers and Community Learning and Development (CLD) practitioners has been set up to test and feed back on these materials. This is due to start in March 2021.

Revision of the Scottish Government's UNCRC Booklet is also underway, to ensure it keeps up with developments around UNCRC incorporation. Approximately 5,000 UNCRC booklets will be sent out across Scotland in April 2021 to practitioners, children, young people and families.

Work alongside [Education Scotland](#) and [YouthLink Scotland](#) also continues in order to strengthen awareness and understanding of children's rights through the refresh and testing of the CLD version of [Recognising and Realising Children's Rights training tool](#), which aims to support the development of a rights-based culture across CLD practitioners and settings.



Action: We will carry out a comprehensive review of an extension of discounts on public transport currently available to those aged 16-18 and extending it to those under the age of 26. This will incorporate an appraisal of costs and benefits as any changes to the scheme must fully consider the range of impacts that may result and where benefits may accrue.

We have continued to engage with young people and listen to their views on the U26 review and on the development of our **National Transport Strategy** which was published in February 2020 along with the **Young Scot engagement report**. The strategy recognises the importance of affordability of public transport to young people which is also what the Cabinet heard when agreeing the transport action to review discounts.

Since the commitment to carry out a review was made Scottish Ministers have gone further and confirmed the extension of free bus travel to approximately 770,000 young people, which was a commitment in the 2020 Programme for Government. Once the scheme starts, as soon as practically possible, young people under the age of 19 will join the third of Scotland's population who already benefit from free bus travel. Public consultation has shown strong support for the scheme.

The wider U26 review was paused as a result of the impact of COVID-19, and has since restarted and is nearly finished, including updating the evidence base for the impact COVID-19 has had on young people. We have worked with Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament to discuss the review and to understand the challenges relating to transport and affordability for young people.

As part of the wider evidence base included for our U26 review, we have worked with the **Poverty Alliance** to carry out research and talk to families about how they use transport. This focused on the experiences of the six priority groups identified in the **Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22**. The field work has been completed and the report will be published when ready.



Action: We will continue to support children and young people to cope with challenges and adversity, which would include bereavement, and consider how the school community can best support children and young people.

There are lots of **resources** available to teachers to help them teach health and wellbeing or PSE (Personal and Social Education) lessons that help support children and young people to cope with challenges, adversity and/or trauma. For example, there are resources on Education Scotland's website to support teachers to deliver **learning on bereavement**. These, and other good practice resources, will be brought together for teachers in one place as part of our work to deliver the **PSE review recommendations**.

We also know the experience of death and bereavement can have long lasting negative effects on children and young people's lives. In partnership with Young Scot, we produced the **Death Tings** report to identify the important issues to young people around death and dying. In March 2020, the Scottish Government awarded a contract for a **National Childhood Bereavement Coordinator for Scotland**. The coordinator will be a national champion and help oversee childhood bereavement support services in Scotland. This will help to respond appropriately to children and young people's needs in this area.



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