

# Bulletin

**First Edition**

*(December 2007)*

looked after children  
& young people:  
we can and must do better

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Working together to build improvement in the educational outcomes  
of Scotland's looked after children & young people.



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SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE





Shirley Laing

Welcome to the first *We Can and Must Do Better* communications bulletin. It is hard to believe that almost a year has elapsed since the launch of our action plan!

Lots of activity is being taken forward at both local and national level as we **work together** to improve the life outcomes of our looked after children and young people. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide you with details of the progress made and activities which are underway in relation to the actions and tasks from *We Can and Must Do Better*; I hope you will find it both informative and useful. Please feel free to share the bulletin with all those who are, like you, working to improve outcomes for Scotland's young people.

We know that improving outcomes for looked after children and care leavers will not happen over night – it will take long term commitment at a national and local level. But it is a commitment which is essential to ensuring that our children and young people get the choices and chances they deserve to become successful learners, confident and resilient individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. That is what makes our collective activity so important. Activity, of course, which feeds directly into the National Performance Framework in which key national outcomes include that our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed and that our school leavers are in positive and sustained destinations.

I know that you are working hard to ensure that Scotland's looked after children are supported to improve their life outcomes and succeed. The Government fully understand the scale and nature of this challenge and we will continue to work in partnership with you to improve these outcomes. All of us in the **Improving Outcomes for Looked after Children** and **Corporate Parenting** teams, together with colleagues from across Scottish Government, will continue to work closely with you to support local delivery. Meantime if there are specific points you wish to discuss or seek our assistance with then don't hesitate to contact us.

With very best wishes for the festive season

**Shirley Laing**

Head of Improving Outcomes for Looked After Children  
Care & Justice Division  
The Scottish Government

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**Colin MacLean**

The goal of *We Can and Must Do Better* is to improve outcomes for looked after children and young people, bringing their outcomes up to at least the national average. Specifically we aim to see an improvement in: the stability of care placements; educational attainment; positive destinations post-school; and, the numbers of care leavers sustaining tenancies. Each of the actions in the programme is designed to support delivery of these outcomes. Steady progress is being made to drive improved outcomes for looked after children and young people through the implementation of *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better*. A central part of the framework for monitoring and implementation includes the establishment of an Implementation Board of senior officials from key areas within Scottish Government and from partner agencies.

The Implementation Board takes overall responsibility for delivery of the 19 Action Areas identified in the report, and for ensuring that these are consistent with, and supportive of, policies in related areas. In addition to the formation of the Implementation Board, 8 working groups have been established under the 5 themes of the report. The Chairs of each working group are members of the Implementation Board.

- **Working Together**
  - Corporate Parent working group*
  - Training working group*
  - Data working group*
  - Website working group*
- **Becoming Effective Lifelong Learners working group**
- **Developing into Successful and Responsible Adults working group**
- **Being emotionally, Mentally and Physically Healthy working group**
- **Feeling Safe and Nurtured in a home setting working group**

The Implementation Board oversees the effective governance of the work streams through monitoring working group activities. The Board will remove barriers to progress should these arise. It will secure buy-in from key partners, and ensure that communication both within the Scottish Government and with external partners is effective. The Implementation Board reports regularly to Ministers and, where appropriate, makes recommendations to Ministers on possible ways to further improve outcomes for looked after children and young people. To date, the Implementation Board has met on 3 occasions.

## Membership of the Implementation Board

<b>Colin MacLean</b>	Scottish Government ( <i>Chair</i> )	<b>Derek Feeley</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Fiona Lees</b>	East Ayrshire Council	<b>Mike Foulis</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Penny Curtis</b>	COSLA	<b>David Duncan</b>	Lothian & Borders Police
<b>David Cameron</b>	Stirling Council/ADES	<b>Liz Hunter</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Colin MacKenzie</b>	Aberdeenshire Council/ADSW	<b>Pam Whittle</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Elaine Zwirlein</b>	Dundee Council/ALACHO	<b>Olivia McLeod</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Dr Graham Connelly</b>	Strathclyde University	<b>Shirley Laing</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Mark Batho</b>	Scottish Government	<b>Anna Fowlie</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Bridget Campbell</b>	Scottish Government	<b>Graham McCann</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Caroline Selkirk</b>	NHS Tayside	<b>Viv Boyle</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Addie Stevenson</b>	Aberlour Trust		





Fiona Lees

### The Corporate Parent Working Group

The **Corporate Parent** working group is responsible for the delivery of Actions 1 - 5 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

To date, the working group has met on 4 occasions.

#### Action 1

We will fund the appointment of a Senior Executive who will work closely with Chief Executives and Senior Officials within each local authority. He/she will discuss what is being done to improve educational outcomes for looked after children and young people and care leavers with the relevant corporate parents and will provide reports twice a year to Cabinet.

#### Action 2

We will work together with local authorities to identify measures which could be put in place to improve the effectiveness of their corporate parent role, and we will write to them in the first instance to alert them to this work.

#### Action 3

We will work together with COSLA and the Improvement Service to include corporate parenting in the induction programme for new elected members.

Strengthening the role of the local authority as corporate parent is central to improving outcomes for looked after children and young people and under Action 1 of the report the senior officer seconded from COSLA to Scottish Government has been working with councils to strengthen their approach to corporate parenting. This work involves local authority chief executives, corporate management teams and elected members. Guidance for councils will be produced under the aegis of the Corporate Parent Working Group, and already councils are developing corporate parenting strategies which aim to engage the whole council in improving outcomes for looked after children.

£2.5 million was announced by the Minister for Children and Early Years on 4 October 2007 to support councils in developing the structures and processes which strengthen their corporate parenting role. It is about building the capacity to challenge and scrutinise, rather than direct service provision, for example through:

- elected member development materials or events;
- multi-agency development sessions at management and operational levels;
- multi-disciplinary training events bring together education, social work, housing, partners in the NHS and others;
- awareness-raising through events or written materials;
- publication of local strategies or commitment statements based on self evaluation;
- consultation events with looked after children; or
- events to celebrate the success of looked after children or care leavers.



Work has begun to explore the role of **elected members**, who are accountable for the outcomes of children who have been in their council's care, particularly in relation to scrutiny. The induction and development needs of elected members is being considered at a national and local level, with the changes in local government administrations as a result of the recent election affording an ideal opportunity to raise awareness.

### Action 4

**We will ensure that progress on improving the educational outcomes of looked after children and young people is one of the key components of the outcome agreements for children's services to be tested with pathfinder local children's services pathfinders.**

Improving outcomes for looked after children is integrated into the work to develop children's services outcome agreements. Work within councils to take an increasingly strategic approach to meeting the needs of all service users, including this group, will be mirrored at national level by the work to streamline planning, funding streams and monitoring arrangements and be supported by a proportionate, supportive inspection regime.

### Action 5

**We will inform all local authorities, relevant educational establishments and care providers that they must be able to demonstrate in the course of their inspection cycles, that they actively meet the educational needs of all looked after children and young people for whom they have responsibility**

Key stakeholders are engaged in discussion around how inspection of corporate parenting can be incorporated into existing inspection cycles. There is also some more specific work being done via Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education's thematic inspection of services to Looked After Children which is expected to be launched in March 2008.

### **A message from Anna Fowlie – Head of Corporate Parenting**



**Anna Fowlie**

Since the launch of *We Can and Must Do Better*, I have been working with colleagues and politicians within Scottish Government and in local government and partner agencies to strengthen corporate parenting across Scotland. I have been visiting councils to meet with elected members and senior officers to discuss how we can embed improving outcomes for looked after children and young people as a strategic priority across the whole council, identifying organisational barriers and considering local solutions. Councils have been considering how the needs of the children in their care can be met across community planning partnerships, and how local agencies can work together better to provide child-centred services.

I hope that the £2.5m announced by Adam Ingram, Minister for Children and Early Years on 4 October will go some way to supporting councils in achieving this. I have been developing guidance on corporate parenting for community planning partnerships, ably supported by the Corporate Parent Working Group whose members deserve a gold star for their regular submission of homework and great contributions.

It has been encouraging to hear feedback that corporate parenting is being considered at the most senior levels in councils and awareness is growing in other agencies. It is also exciting to hear how councils are trying out innovative approaches, such as Inverclyde's Children's Champion Scheme and East Renfrewshire's Corporate Parenting Policy. I would be very happy to hear from anyone who has a good example of local work to strengthen corporate parenting, or who would like me to visit their council to contribute to discussions with elected members and/or senior officers.

I am looking forward to the New Year when we continue to develop how we can all contribute to improving the lives of children and young people in care, wherever we work or live. ([anna.fowlie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anna.fowlie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk))

**Membership of the Corporate Parent working group**

<b>Fiona Lees (Chair)</b>	East Ayrshire Council	<b>Cllr Isabel Hutton</b>	COSLA
<b>Lynn Townsend</b>	West Dunbartonshire /ADES	<b>Penny Curtis</b>	COSLA
<b>Marc Hendrikson</b>	SWIA	<b>Boyd McAdam</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Neil McKechnie</b>	HMIe	<b>Catherine Rainey</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Safaa Baxter</b>	East Renfrewshire /ADSW	<b>Zoe Ferguson</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Iona Richards</b>	STAF	<b>John Gunstone</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Prof James McGoldrick</b>	NHS Fife	<b>Jim Stephen</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Paul Carberry</b>	NCH Scotland	<b>Anna Fowlie</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Sharon McAlees</b>	Inverclyde Council	<b>Graham McCann</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Leon Fulcher</b>	Kibble Centre	<b>Viv Boyle</b>	Scottish Government

**The Training Working Group**

The **Training** working group is responsible for the delivery of Action 6 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

To date, the working group has met on 4 occasions.

**Dr Graham Connelly****Action 6**

**We will improve training for parents, foster carers, residential workers, teachers – including teachers in training – social workers, health workers and appointed lead professionals.**

The Training Working Group is working across professions to develop ways of incorporating awareness of the needs of looked after children and young people into initial training and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for a range of professionals who work with children.

The focus of a number of the meetings of the working group has been on the development of a possible Information, Learning and Training, and Learning Opportunities framework for key stakeholders in relation to the education of looked after children and young people and care leavers. Currently the framework considers what is currently / should be available for the stakeholder groups in relation to general information, initial training, CPD and specialist training.

One of the key tasks linked to Action 6 is the revision of the *Learning With Care* training materials. The Scottish Government has contracted the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC), in partnership with BAAF and the University of Strathclyde, to fully revise the training materials to incorporate the messages from We Can and Must Do Better. The aim is to produce a fully interactive and flexible training CD-ROM / DVD which can be used by all relevant stakeholders. The training materials should be available mid-2008.

*Getting it right for every child in kinship and foster care* was published on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007. This is a joint strategy between the Scottish Government and COSLA. As part of the implementation of the strategy a reference group led by BAAF and TFN has been set up. This group will assess the training needs of foster carers and review the current provision, with a view to developing sound proposals for required training.

looked after children & young people:  
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The working group are currently drafting text for an information leaflet re the education of looked after children and young people for student teachers and registered teachers. Relevant stake holders are currently being consulted in relation to the draft text of the leaflet.

SIRCC have recently completed a review of all their training courses in light of the specific task linked to Action 6 re embedding modules on emotional literacy and the education of looked after children and young people in their training courses for residential workers.

### Revision of the *Learning With Care* Training Materials

Judy Furnivall from SIRCC, one of the key people responsible for the development of both the original training materials and the current revision, would like to hear from anyone who has used the original training materials.

In particular, Judy would like to hear about what you felt about delivering the training; the sections that worked best, the sections that were not received very well and in particular suggestions about what could be changed or added to the original materials as part of the current revision.

*Can you help?* If you would like to contribute to the revision of the *Learning With Care* training materials please email your thoughts to Judy before the end of January 2008.

**judith.furnivall@strath.ac.uk**

**YOUR HELP IS REQUIRED!**

#### Membership of the Training working group

<b>Dr Graham Connelly</b> ( <i>Chair</i> )	University of Strathclyde	<b>Margaret Alcorn</b>	COSLA
<b>Barbara Hudson</b>	BAAF	<b>Martin Smith</b>	SFC
<b>Barbara Reid</b>	University of Glasgow	<b>Ralston McKay</b>	Dumfries & Galloway
<b>Caroline Mearns</b>	NES	<b>Sue Robertson</b>	The Fostering Network
<b>Stewart Alexander</b>	ACPO	<b>Tim Pogston</b>	CIH
<b>Bob Davis</b>	STEC	<b>Vijay Patel</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Jackie Dougall</b>	NHS Glasgow	<b>Anncris Roberts</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Eve Archer</b>	Moray Children's Panel	<b>John Gunstone</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Ian Milligan</b>	SIRCC	<b>Ian Davidson</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Jayne Dunn</b>	SISWE	<b>Stewart Robertson</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Joe Francis</b>	University of Edinburgh	<b>Graham McCann</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Norma Wright</b>	LTS		





## The Data Working Group

The **Data** working group is responsible for the delivery of Action 7 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

To date, the working group has met on 4 occasions.

### Graham McCann

#### Action 7

We will continue to work in partnership with local authorities to deliver a more robust and comprehensive data collection and reporting framework in relation to the educational outcomes of Scotland's looked after children and young people.

In addition to accurately monitoring whether outcomes for looked after children are improving, robust data is essential to tracking children and ensure that they receive the services they need. The Data working group is working to improve the quality of information collected from all agencies providing services to looked after children and young people, drawing on a data scoping exercise which has recently been completed. Analytical Services are currently undertaking a major piece of work in partnership with local authorities to improve the data which is collected in relation to the CLAS returns with £1m of Scottish Government investment. This activity aims to make its data collections more relevant to Government and to service delivery agencies. Several councils have agreed to become early adopters of the new collection arrangements.

The reporting framework is currently being developed and will be circulated for consultation early in 2008. The working group currently hold the view that the reporting framework should relate to all looked after children and young people of school age, it should relate to an academic year, and should report in relation to the following;

- Increase in outcomes year on year for looked after children and young people and care leavers
- Narrowing of gap between outcomes of looked after children and young people and children and young people who are not looked after
- The experience of being looked after has improved educational outcomes

#### Membership of the Data working group

<b>Graham McCann</b> ( <i>Chair</i> )	Scottish Government	<b>Lesley Mortimer</b>	Glasgow City Council
<b>Maggie Veitch</b>	Fife Council	<b>Kevin Colclough</b>	Highland Council
<b>Agnes O'Donnell</b>	Careers Scotland	<b>Mark Diffley</b>	Audit Scotland
<b>Esta Clark</b>	HMIE	<b>Kit Wyeth</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Richard Fowles</b>	SWIA	<b>Albert King</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Gail Abraham</b>	Renfrewshire Council	<b>Brenda Calder</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Heather Gray</b>	Who Cares? Scotland	<b>Boyd McAdam</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Jane Park</b>	NHS	<b>Murray McVicar</b>	Scottish Government
<b>John Rooney</b>	Renfrewshire Council	<b>Gary Sutton</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Phil Jones</b>	Dumfries & Galloway	<b>Andrew Keir</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Judith Tait</b>	ISD Scotland	<b>Viv Boyle</b>	Scottish Government





## The Website Working Group

The **Website** working group is responsible for the delivery of Action 8 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

To date, the working group has met on 4 occasions.

**Viv Boyle**

### Action 8

**We will fund the development of a national network and information website for professionals, foster carers, residential workers, parents and looked after children and young people.**

We have engaged the Looked After Children Education Forum, in partnership with Learning and Teaching Scotland, to take forward the development of this web-site and hope to formally launch in the spring of 2008. The website will be hosted as part of the LTS suite of websites and will integrate with relevant other sites. Work is currently on-going to develop appropriate and comprehensive content for the website. A discussion forum is also planned as part of the website.

### Membership of the Website working group

<b>Viv Boyle</b> ( <i>Chair</i> )	Scottish Government	<b>Gail Monteith</b>	LTS
<b>Allan Cowieson</b>	North Ayrshire	<b>Anne Ward</b>	LTS
<b>Colin Robb</b>	Edinburgh Council	<b>Margaret Watson</b>	LTS
<b>Sandra McLaughlin</b>	Inverclyde Council	<b>Gillian McBride</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Trish McQueen</b>	Strathclyde University	<b>Alistair Nairn</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Charles Higgins</b>	Glasgow University	<b>Vijay Patel</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Gregor Urquart</b>	Young Scot	<b>Gordon Watt</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Emma Walsh</b>	LTS	<b>Graham McCann</b>	Scottish Government

### LAC Education Forum

The *LAC Education Forum* was formed in late 2000 when small group of education and social work professionals met in a Hamilton school to discuss issues surrounding the education of looked after children and young people. The purpose of this meeting was to network and share practice and experience. From an membership of 6 – 8 people in 2000, the *Forum* has grown significantly with over 200 members currently on the mailing list. The membership of the forum is drawn from the majority of local authorities across Scotland, the NHS, HMIe, SIRCC, SWIA, Who Cares? Scotland, the residential school sector, Save the Children, STAF, the Big Step, the Universities of Strathclyde, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Abertay and the Scottish Government. If you would like to join the *LAC Education Forum* please send an e-mail to

[graham.mccann@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:graham.mccann@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)





### The Becoming Effective Lifelong Learners Working Group

The **Becoming Effective Lifelong Learners** working group is responsible for the delivery of Actions 9 - 11 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

To date, the working group has met on 3 occasions.

**David Cameron**

#### Action 9

In partnership with COSLA, local authorities and Learning and Teaching Scotland, we will produce a list of core tasks which clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the designated person within each school or residential establishment who undertakes this important role. The list of core tasks will be published as part of a practical resource developed to provide support for the designated person.

The Becoming Effective Lifelong Learners working group is currently working on the core tasks, and exploring what professionals need to support them in this role. Targeted consultation is currently underway in relation to the core task for the Designated Senior Manager for looked after children and young people in schools and pre-school establishments and work is planned with SIRCC in relation to the developing the role within residential establishments. The core tasks will be supported by the revised *Learning With Care* training materials (Action 6), the website (Action 8), the development of a challenging transitions resource (Action 10) and the products emanating from the national research linked to the programme of local authority LAC educational attainment pilots.

#### Action 10

We will commission the development of guidance and a practical resource which will focus on those looked after children and young people who have experienced or who are likely to experience a challenging transition.

Following a competitive tendering exercise, the School of Emotional Literacy, a small organisation based in Midlothian which undertakes research and consultancy work to promote emotional literacy as an aid to learning, has been commissioned through a tendering process to produce a practical resource to support transitions. This is expected to be completed by April 2008.

#### Action 11

We will highlight the particular issues faced by looked after children in relation to school attendance and exclusion.

The needs of looked after children are being included in the development of *Included, Engaged and Involved* (the work to revise guidance on school attendance), together with guidance on exclusions which will be issued in 2008. Part 1 of this guidance was published on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 (see notable events page for link to the document).



**Membership of the Becoming Effective Lifelong Learner working group**

<b>David Cameron (Chair)</b>	Stirling Council	<b>Moira Shemilt</b>	SFEU
<b>Carol Edgar</b>	South Lanarkshire	<b>Carol McDonald</b>	Scottish Government
<b>David Cumming</b>	SWIA	<b>Ron Crichton</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Gary Daniell</b>	Fairbridge	<b>Kathryn Chisholm</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Dr Graham Connelly</b>	University of Strathclyde	<b>Derrick Bruce</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Irene Grant</b>	Glasgow City Council	<b>Susan Bolt</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Jennifer Davidson</b>	SIRCC	<b>Scott McDonald</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Julia Swan</b>	Falkirk Council	<b>Anna Fowlie</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Margo Williamson</b>	LTS	<b>Graham McCann</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Ron Culley</b>	COSLA	<b>Shirley Laing</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Maureen Mallon</b>	HMIE	<b>Judy Waterman</b>	Scottish Government



**The Developing into Successful and Responsible Adults Working Group**

The **Developing into Successful and Responsible Adults** working group is responsible for the delivery of Actions 12 - 14 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

Colin MacKenzie

To date, the working group has met on 4 occasions.

**Action 12**

**We will encourage local authorities to use existing powers under Section 30 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to provide appropriate financial support for care leavers who are in full-time education, training or a modern apprenticeship.**

We have now written to all local authorities reminding them of the legal framework and asking them to provide examples of good practice. We will consider the impact of early intervention and prevention on the child's journey through compulsory education and into employment, further or higher education and training.

**Action 13**

**We will work with colleges and universities to raise awareness and responsiveness to the issues faced by care leavers who enter further or higher education.**

The Minister for Children and Early Years spoke at the Scottish launch of the Frank Buttle Trust's Quality Mark for universities which demonstrate support to care leavers on 25 September 2007. Three Scottish Universities were awarded the Quality Mark.

UCAS has confirmed that it will have 2 new optional questions in its application forms for 2008 university entry; (a) whether the applicant's parents have any previous experience of Higher Education and (b) whether the applicant has experience of being in care. Therefore, from autumn next year, universities will be able to identify care leavers, provided students have answered the question(s) on the application form.



Work is also being taken forward with the Association of Scotland's Colleges regarding the needs of young people in care and care leavers who go into further education both as an alternative to school and after leaving school.

## Action 14

**We will commission the development of a resource pack for looked after young people and care leavers which will provide them with information relevant to their transition into adulthood.**

Initial development of the information pack for care leavers is underway with a view to this resource being made available by Easter 2008. A number of groups of young care leavers will be consulted in relation to this development early in 2008.

### Membership of the Developing into Successful and Responsible Adults working group

<b>Colin Mackenzie</b> (Chair)	Aberdeenshire Council	<b>Maureen Baird</b>	Glasgow City Council
<b>Jonathon Staal</b>	Abertay University	<b>Mike Penny</b>	Edinburgh /ALACHO
<b>Anne Penn</b>	Includem	<b>Julie-Anne Jamieson</b>	Careers Scotland
<b>Tam Baillie</b>	Barnardo's Scotland	<b>Shena Mitchell</b>	Assoc of Scotlands Colleges
<b>Diane Watt</b>	Children's Panel	<b>Melanie Weldon</b>	Scottish Government
<b>John Hinton</b>	Move On	<b>Cyril Hellier</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Liz Lafferty</b>	South Lanarkshire/ADSW	<b>Donna Bell</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Kim Watson</b>	The Big Step	<b>Viv Boyle</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Anne Lee</b>	Stirling Council	<b>Fiona McKinley</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Gary Stopford</b>	Stirling Council		



### The Becoming Emotionally, Physically and Mentally Healthy Working Group

The **Becoming Emotionally, Physically and Mentally Healthy** working group is responsible for the delivery of Actions 15 & 16 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

**Caroline Selkirk**

To date, the working group has met on 3 occasions.

## Action 15

**Each NHS Board will assess the physical, mental and emotional health needs of all looked after children and young people for whom they have responsibility and put in place appropriate measures which take account of these assessments. They will ensure that all health service providers will work to make their services more accessible to looked after and accommodated children and young people and to those in the transition from care to independence.**



Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) is working with NHS Health Scotland to deliver a 2 year programme of support for Continuous Professional Development on sex and relationships education. The programme delivers one of the actions in Respect and Responsibility (Strategy and Action Plan for Improving Sexual Health).

LTS is also working with NHS Health Scotland and Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency to review the range, quality and suitability of drugs education materials currently available and to develop an age-graded drugs education programme covering the many forms of substance misuse and to provide advice about the type of new approaches that might be effective in delivering drugs/alcohol and tobacco education in a school setting, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable young people. This work will be consistent with the outcomes and experiences being developed in the curriculum review and will complement the new duty under the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007.

Using available evidence from Health Scotland, National Health Education Scotland (NES) will scope the existing Looked After and Accommodated Children's nurse roles and identify a core role and competency framework for all LAAC nurses in Scotland. Work commenced in November 2007 and should be completed by July 2008.

## Action 16

**We have agreed with the Care Commission that they will review the health of looked after children and young people.**

The Care Commission's report on nutritional standards in residential care is expected in the autumn; it will report on mental health and well-being in its 2007/08 cycle and on physical health and well-being in 2008/09.

## Membership of the Becoming Emotionally, Physically & Mentally Healthy working group

<b>Caroline Selkirk</b> ( <i>Chair</i> )	NHS Tayside	<b>Stephen McCluskey</b>	SIRCC
<b>Margaret Orr</b>	Glasgow City Council	<b>Dr Graham Bryce</b>	Yorkhill NHS Trust
<b>Hawys Kilday</b>	Caledonia Youth	<b>Kay Ryan</b>	West Lothian
<b>Carol Watson</b>	NHS Lothian	<b>Ewen Matthew</b>	Balnacraig School
<b>Jane Park</b>	NHS Highland	<b>Dr Margaret McGuire</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Ian Hooper</b>	Glasgow City Council	<b>John Frogatt</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Bryan Livingstone</b>	Care Commission	<b>Chris Ridley</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Rosie Bolton</b>	ADSW	<b>Kay Barton</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Caroline Wilson</b>	Penumbra	<b>Geoff Huggins</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Ann Kerr</b>	NHS Health Scotland	<b>Dr Sara Davies</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Wendy Halliday</b>	LTS Scotland	<b>Vijay Patel</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Barbara Hudson</b>	BAAF	<b>Shirley Laing</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Neil Hunter</b>	Glasgow Addiction Services	<b>Louise McCue</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Caroline Mearns</b>	NHS Education Scotland		





### The Feeling Safe and Nurtured in a Home Setting Working Group

The **Feeling and Nurtured in a Home Setting** working group is responsible for the delivery of Actions 16 - 19 as identified in *Looked After Children and Young People: We Can and Must Do Better* along with the tasks set out under the relevant action.

To date, the working group has met on 4 occasions.

Addie Stevenson

#### Action 17

We will provide £5 million of additional funding in the current financial year to local authority and voluntary providers of children's homes and units in residential schools to improve their physical environment and to create an educationally rich environment for the children and young people who live there.

The funding referred to in action 17 was issued in March 2007. A report outlining how the money was used has been prepared. Further funding of £3m was announced by the Minister for Children and Early Years in 2007 to support foster and kinship carers.

#### Action 18

We will clarify the duty on local authorities to ensure that they provide safe, secure and appropriate accommodation to looked after young people until at least age 18. The accommodation must appropriately support their longer-term outcomes in terms of education, employment and training.

The Feeling Safe and Nurtured in a Home Setting Working Group is exploring work to take this forward, for example in looking at residential care, and Guidance on Overnight Stays. Our *Getting it right for every child in Kinship and Foster care* strategy was published on 5<sup>th</sup> December (see notable events page for the link to the document), and the implementation in 2008 of the measures contained in the Adoption Act 2007 (including Permanence Orders) will support improved quality and availability of care for young people who are looked after away from their birth family.

Work is ongoing on reducing homelessness, as well as better meeting the needs of care leavers who find themselves unable to sustain tenancies, recognising the importance of stable, suitable accommodation to being able to engage with work or education.

#### Action 19

We will clarify the duty on local authorities to provide appropriate support to their care leavers up to the age of 21.

A letter clarifying the responsibilities of councils to care leavers has been issued to councils, and the Feeling Safe and Nurtured in a Home Setting Working Group is considering ways to share good practice on supporting young people as they leave care and move on into independent living.



### Membership of the Feeling Safe and Nurtured in a Home Setting working group

<b>Addie Stevenson (Chair)</b>	Aberlour Trust	<b>Sandy Anderson</b>	Stirling Council
<b>Heather Gray</b>	Who Cares? Scotlnad	<b>Kenny Simpson</b>	East Dunbartonshire
<b>Iona Richards</b>	STAF	<b>Dr Margaret McGuire</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Ronnie Hill</b>	Care Commission	<b>Pippa Goldschmidt</b>	Scottish Government
<b>John Boreland</b>	Renfrewshire Council	<b>Anna Donald</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Mike Rodden</b>	West Dunbartonshire	<b>Jackie Brock</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Maureen Anderson</b>	SIRCC	<b>Anna Fowlie</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Leon Fulcher</b>	Kibble Centre	<b>Viv Boyle</b>	Scottish Government
<b>Margaret Sloan</b>	Good Shepherd Centre	<b>Graham McCann</b>	Scottish Government

### The Local Authority Pilot Projects

In October 2004 the Scottish Executive announced £6 million of funding to support pilots for raising the educational attainment of Looked After Children. Since then a total of 20 local authorities have been approved for funding, namely: Aberdeen City, Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee City, East Ayrshire, East Lothian, Edinburgh City, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, Inverclyde, Midlothian, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Stirling, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Councils. All of the local authorities, apart from North Lanarkshire and Inverclyde, received 2 years funding. The latter are due to receive funding for one year only due to the timing of when their project proposals were submitted and approved.

A team from the University of Strathclyde have been appointed to undertake national research, the overall aim of which is to identify what interventions in the pilot programme make the most difference in terms of both educational experience and educational outcomes. The research is divided into 4 phases and the final research report and the principal product – guidance for practitioners – are due to be completed by June 2008. Each of the local authorities involved in the programme of pilot initiatives have committed to undertake a local evaluation of their pilot covering the development and success (or otherwise) of their pilot

Five types of activity have emerged from across the pilot projects as important common factors. The activities are;

- direct support (e.g. tutoring, removing barriers to education, and nurture classes, etc.)
- personal education planning (e.g. My Learning Plan)
- transition support (e.g. support with transition to secondary school)
- developing parental/staff capacity (e.g. training, awareness raising, etc.)
- the use of IT interventions (e.g. development of on-line resources)

East Ayrshire Council became the first local authority to reach the end of the agreed period of Scottish Executive funding on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. The funding for the South Lanarkshire, Stirling, North Ayrshire, Fife and Highland pilot projects ended in the first 6 months of the current financial year. Funding for the remaining pilots ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Thereafter, the Scottish Government will be considering how best to disseminate the lessons learned from the national research and the local evaluations of the projects. All local authorities involved in the pilot projects are considering how best to sustain successful elements of their projects.



### Recent Notable Events

- 25<sup>th</sup> September** Launch of the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark in Scotland  
[www.buttletrust.org](http://www.buttletrust.org)
- 4<sup>th</sup> October** Minister for Children and Early Years announced £2.5m for corporate parenting  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/10/04111427>  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7026539.stm>  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow\\_and\\_west/7026565.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7026565.stm)
- Launch of Inverclyde Council's Children's Champion Scheme
- 26 October** Launch of South Lanarkshire Council's Framework for Assessment and Intervention on Resilience
- 1<sup>st</sup> November** Minister for Children and Early Years announced the Kerelaw Inquiry  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/kerelawinquiry](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/kerelawinquiry)  
[www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/News/kerelaw+inquiry.htm](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/News/kerelaw+inquiry.htm)
- 14<sup>th</sup> November** HMie Count Us In report on the implementation of the Additional Support for Learning Act published  
[www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/aslr.pdf](http://www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/aslr.pdf)
- Care Commission report on fostering and adoption services published  
[www.carecommission.com/images/stories/documents/publications/](http://www.carecommission.com/images/stories/documents/publications/)
- Spending Review announced
- 20<sup>th</sup> November** Chief Medical Officer's report published  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/15135302/0>
- SCCYP event to celebrate 18<sup>th</sup> birthday of the UNCRC
- 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> November** Children's Panel National School focuses on Looked After Children and Young People
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November** Historic Abuse Systemic Review published  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/20104729/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/20104729/0)
- 28<sup>th</sup> November** Children Looked After Statistics annual report published  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/27100107/0>



### Recent Notable Events (Continued)

5<sup>th</sup> December

“Getting it right for every child in kinship and foster care” published  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/03143704/0>

The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations: Consultation on draft regulations begins

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/03143704/0>

11<sup>th</sup> December

Attendance & Absence Statistics 2006 / 07 published  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/11160723/0>

Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools: 2006 / 07 published  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/07093501/1>

12<sup>th</sup> December

Included, Engaged & Involved - part 1: attendance in Scottish schools [Guidance] published  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/12/05100056/0>

# Bulletin

**Second Edition**  
*(February 2008)*

We are hoping to produce a second edition of the *We Can and Must Do Better* bulletin; ideally towards the end of February 2008. As this edition has focussed mainly on the developments of the Implementation Board and the various working groups, we are keen to hear about and share information in relation to local developments around *We Can and Must Do Better* and improving outcomes for looked after children and young people.

#### **Do you have an article for the next bulletin?**

If you would like to share information about

- Local developments and initiatives,
- Examples of best practice, and / or
- Recent policy developments, etc

Please send details to Graham McCann ([graham.mccann@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:graham.mccann@scotland.gsi.gov.uk))



looked after children & young people:  
we can and must do better





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**Nicola McDade**

Towards the end on November, Nicola McDade was commissioned as a consultant by the Scottish Government in relation to the implementation of *We Can and Must Do Better*. Nicola is a young care leaver, having previously been looked after by Glasgow City Council; she is a graduate of the University of Glasgow. Nicola will work alongside colleagues from the Scottish Government and key stakeholder groups (including looked after children and young people and care leavers).

