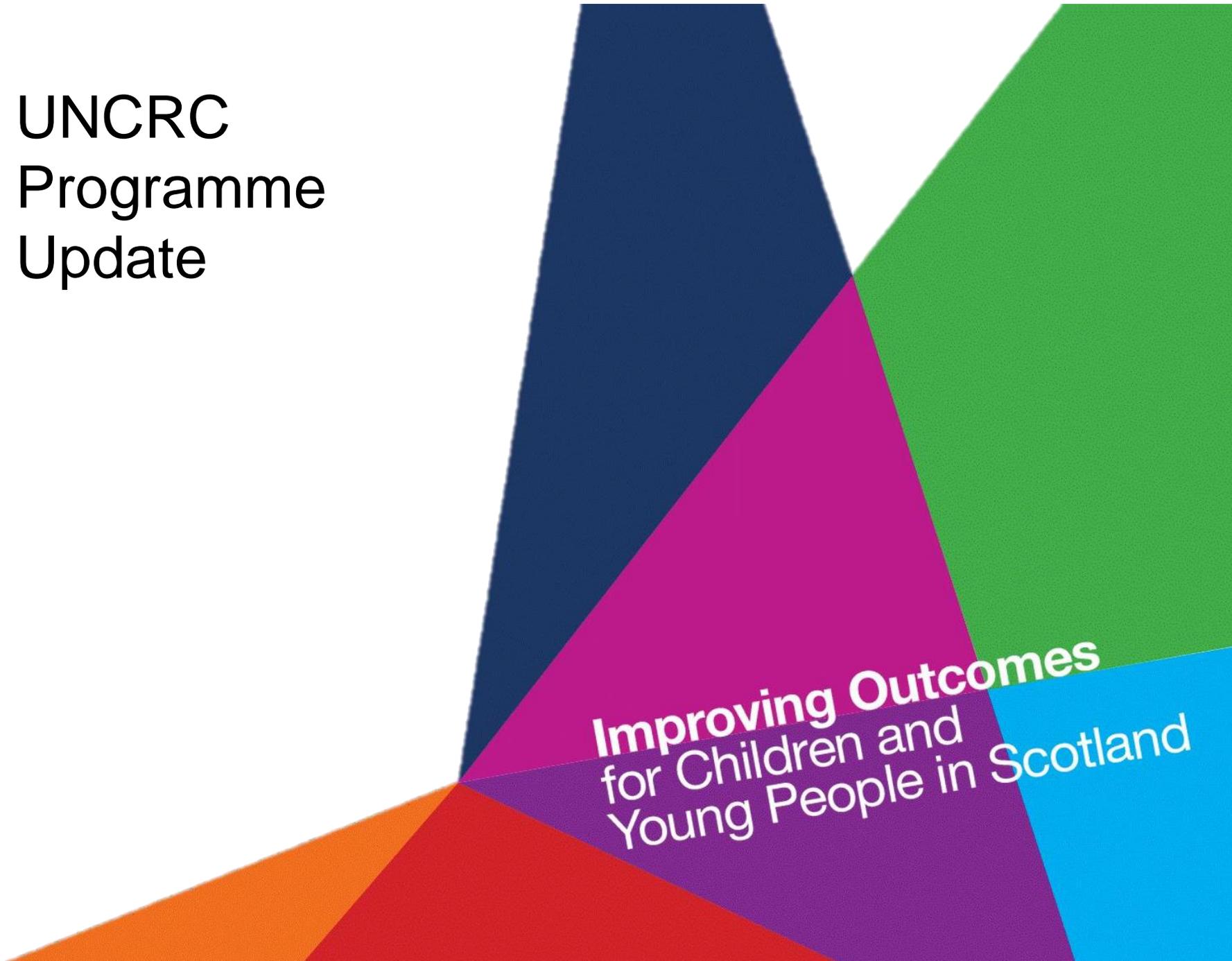


UNCRC Programme Update



Improving Outcomes
for Children and
Young People in Scotland

Welcome

Welcome to Issue 2 of the Children's Rights Unit newsletter. This issue includes an update on the UNCRC Bill and the ways we are continuing to work at pace to implement children's rights across Scotland with a focus on support being made available to public authorities to fulfil their duties in the Bill, and support for children and families to understand and claim their rights.

We are also delighted to share a new [animation](#) with suggestions from children on what more public authorities could do to show they understand, respect and protect their rights. This resource was co-developed with children and young people, in response to suggestions from children during previous engagement work in the Unit. The animation can help serve as a child-friendly accompaniment to the [non-statutory introductory guidance](#) we published in November 2021.

As ever, we are keen to have your thoughts on the issues below and anything else you would like to see covered in the run up to the incorporation of UNCRC. If you would like to get in touch, you can mail us here UNCRCIncorporation@gov.scot



Update on the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

Targeted stakeholder engagement on the proposed fixes to the Bill took place between the 25 May and 11 June 2022. The purpose of that engagement was to ensure that our key stakeholders understand our proposals for amending the Bill and to help us understand any concerns that need to be aired before or during Reconsideration Stage. Stakeholders indicated their support in principle to the proposals for amending the Bill. They recognise that the proposed amendments are necessary to address the Supreme Court judgement whilst minimising the impact on the original policy intention. A [summary of the responses](#) to this targeted stakeholder engagement was provided to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee on 30 June.

Mr Swinney wrote to the Committees for Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice and Education, Children and Young People to provide a further [update](#) and advise that he was now in a position to instruct draft amendments in line with his stated intentions to Parliament. The Scottish Government is currently preparing for the Reconsideration Stage of the Bill, which will include lodging amendments to address the issues the Supreme Court raised in respect of legislative competence. We do not know how long the Reconsideration Stage will take but are currently working to bring the Bill back to Parliament for reconsideration as soon as we can.



Update on the UNCRC implementation

Supporting public authorities

Statutory guidance for the UNCRC Bill

Work is continuing on the preparation of statutory guidance for the UNCRC Bill, namely Part 2 (duty to act compatibly with the UNCRC requirements as defined by the Bill) and Part 3 (reporting duty of listed authorities). The aim of the statutory guidance will be to support public authorities to understand and fulfil their new duties and secure better and further effect of child rights.

Part 2 guidance will include definitions of key terms within the Bill; an optional review framework that public authorities may wish to consider to assist as part of their efforts to comply with the UNCRC requirements. It will also include sections on key aspects of implementation, such as participation of children, raising awareness of rights, child-rights budgeting and inclusive communication.

The Scottish Government is working in partnership with the [UNCRC Guidance Working Group](#) to develop meaningful and accessible guidance. We will continue to work collaboratively with our partners in the public and third sector to meet the needs of duty-bearers. There will also be a statutory consultation on the draft guidance as soon as possible if the Bill receives Royal Assent.



Update on the UNCRC implementation

Skills and Knowledge Framework

Work is now underway on the development of a Children's Rights Skills and Knowledge Framework. This work is being led by [JRS Knowhow](#), working in partnership with [Just Right Scotland](#), [Children's Parliament](#) and [Together](#).

The Framework will provide a single point from which to easily access new and existing resources and training in relation to children's rights. It is intended to be a flexible and adaptable resource that can be used across a wide range of sectors, giving users an enhanced understanding of how they can fulfil their duties in relation to the rights of children.

Working closely with stakeholders, including public authorities and children and families, is a key objective for the project. The organisations involved are planning to convene and work closely with two groups of co-production partners – a Children and Families Panel and a Professionals Panel - to support the development of this work.

Theory of change report

In 2021, The Scottish Government commissioned a Theory of change report to support UNCRC implementation. The work was led by the Observatory of Children's Human Rights Scotland, Matter of Focus and Public Health Scotland with over 60 organisations from across Scotland contributing.

The project has published a [full report](#), summary reports ([PDF](#) and [interactive](#)) and four [Evidence Papers](#) examining each of the four change processes which make up the Theory of Change.



Update on the UNCRC implementation

The project identified four change mechanisms to inform future policy and action:

- 1) **Policy** - policy adaptation, coordination, administrative integration and budgetary consideration
- 2) **Capacity** - building cross-sector capacity and capability to integrate rights-based ways of working
- 3) **Culture** - changing attitudes, norms, values and everyday actions
- 4) **Empowerment** - ensuring a system of information, advocacy, complaints, redress and effective remedy for children and young people

The full report introduces the outcome maps that make up the Theory of Change and provides principles to consider in applying it to your own work. This will be particularly useful to organisations wishing to draw upon this framework to develop holistic, child rights-based action plans for UNCRC implementation.

Please contact eloise.digianni@ed.ac.uk with any questions.

Supporting children and young people

Animation on UNCRC implementation

Earlier this year the Children's Rights Unit commissioned a short animation to go with the UNCRC: Introductory guidance. This is now available to view on the Scottish Government's You Tube channel and can be found [here](#).

The aims of the film are:

- To inform children and young people about the UNCRC and explain child rights-based approaches.
- To explain practical ways that public authorities can uphold the rights of children and young people.
- To communicate the key messages of the introductory guidance.



Update on the UNCRC implementation

The animation was developed with children, young people and parents. Our thanks go out to Carers Trust Scotland, Parent Network Scotland, Partners in Advocacy and Renfrewshire Youth Services who helped shape the look and feel of the animation, the script and gave voice to the characters. The animation is a free resource. We encourage you to share it within your internal and external networks. We would also love to hear your feedback on the film and if you have used it as part of your workforce or team discussions on child rights.

Rights Respecting School Award

In May 2022, the Scottish Government announced funding for UNICEF UK to offer their [Rights Respecting Schools Award](#) (RRSA) programme to all 2,400 state primary and secondary schools in Scotland. UNICEF UK works across the country to embed children's rights in a schools' ethos, raise awareness of the UNCRC and increase understanding of children's rights. Evidence shows the positive impact on creating a culture of respect across the school community where children's voices are heard and valued; children feel safe and cared for and develop their self-esteem.

UNICEF UK work with a Strategic Lead in each local authority to help support schools and embed the work. They are still looking to identify a Strategic Lead in Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Midlothian, South Lanarkshire, Orkney, Scottish Borders, West Dunbartonshire, West Lothian and North Lanarkshire.

Schools and local authorities are under no obligation to sign-up as part of the universal offer, it is hoped the removal of local costs will reduce barriers to engagement. More information about the programme, the funding and signing up can be found [here](#).

Update on the UNCRC implementation

Dignity in Schools

Children's Parliament has been working with two partner schools to demonstrate how primary schools can take a child rights-based approach. Children's Parliament are based in each school, working closely with the school's community to identify best practice and areas of development. The *Dignity in Schools* [online hub](#) is a place where learning practitioners, parents, and children can all come to gain awareness of children's rights and what a rights-based approach can achieve. It shares information and learning from the programme, including useful resources and case studies.

The website has a [self-assessment tool](#) that can be used with both adults and children in schools to uncover strengths and areas that may need a bit more support when it comes to rights-based practice.

