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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Health &amp; Social Care Committee</b>	<b>Date: 27 August 2009</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Robert Murphy Acting Corporate Director, Social Care</b>	<b>Report No: SW/28/09/WB/BK</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>Contact No: 714072</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Children's Rights &amp; Information Officer – Annual Report 2008-09 and Work Plan 2009-10</b>	

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek approval from Committee for the Children's Rights and Information Officer's Annual Report for 2008-09 and Work Plan for 2009-10.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The post of Children's Rights and Information Officer was established by Inverclyde Council in February 2005. It was designed to reflect at local level the national work of the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- 2.2 The current post-holder took up post in July 2008, and so the annual report presented in fact represents work over three quarters of a year rather than a full twelve months.
- 2.3 The annual report highlights key areas of work undertaken by the Children's Rights and Information Officer over the period between July 2008 and March 2009.
- 2.4 The Work Plan for 2009-10 gives an indication of key areas of work that will be undertaken, whilst emphasising that there will be flexibility to respond to new issues and demands.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Committee is asked to approve the attached report and authorise its publication and promotion on the Inverclyde Council website.

**Robert Murphy**  
**Acting Corporate Director, Social Care**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The post of Children's Rights and Information Officer was established in 2005, initially through the specific grant funding of the Changing Children's Services Fund. The post was subsequently consolidated as a permanent post within the Council.
- 4.2 The focus of the post is to promote children's rights as enshrined in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. This is taken forward by attention to three key areas:
- ◆ Working with groups of children and young people to provide information, advice and guidance and to support them in making their views known to service providers.
  - ◆ Working with other professionals to provide information, advice and guidance on children's rights / issues affecting children and young people.
  - ◆ Ensuring children's rights are reflected in policy, strategy and practice.
- 4.3 The Children's Rights and Information Officer is currently managed by the Lead Officer, Integrated Children's Services. In addition to this, his work is supported and overseen by a steering group with representation from Social Work Services, Education Services, Community Learning and Development, and the Community Health Partnership. This arrangement promotes wider involvement with the work of the officer, and highlights opportunities for developing new areas of work or responding to particular needs or issues.
- 4.4 The annual report for 2009-10 highlights that a significant amount of work has been done with Inverclyde schools in the primary, secondary, and special school sector. This has included supporting those schools that have elected to go forward for UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award.
- 4.5 Promoting opportunities for children and young people to participate and have their views heard by agencies and services. This has included supporting young people to be involved in the recruitment and selection process for some Council posts.
- 4.6 The Work Plan for 2009-10 is an outline of key areas, many of which represent continuation or further development of established areas of work. In addition to this, a need to collate more robust statistical evidence for the work undertaken, for example exact numbers of children and young people to whom programmes of various kinds have been delivered, has been identified as a priority.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 In 2008-09 the Children's Rights and Information Officer designed a web page for the Council web-site, and it is proposed that the annual report and work plan be published on that site.
- 5.2 In addition to this it is proposed to forward a copy of the report to Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and to the Scottish Government's Children's Rights Team to highlight and promote the work undertaken in Inverclyde.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 **Legal:**  
None

6.2 **Finance:**  
None

6.3 **Personnel:**  
None

6.4 **Equalities:**

The very nature of the Children's Rights and Information Officer post promotes equality and promotion of a proper understanding of children's rights among young people and adults. As highlighted in the report, the officer has been an active member of the Council's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Steering Group and is an Equalities Champion.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The report and work plan has been prepared in consultation with the multi-agency steering group. In publishing the report on the Council web-site the opportunity for young people (and others) to give feedback and suggestions for future areas of work or focus will be provided.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 Children's Rights and Information Officer – Annual Report 2008-09 and Work Plan 2009-10



**Children's Rights &  
Information Officer**

**Annual Report 2008/09 &  
Work Plan 2009/10**



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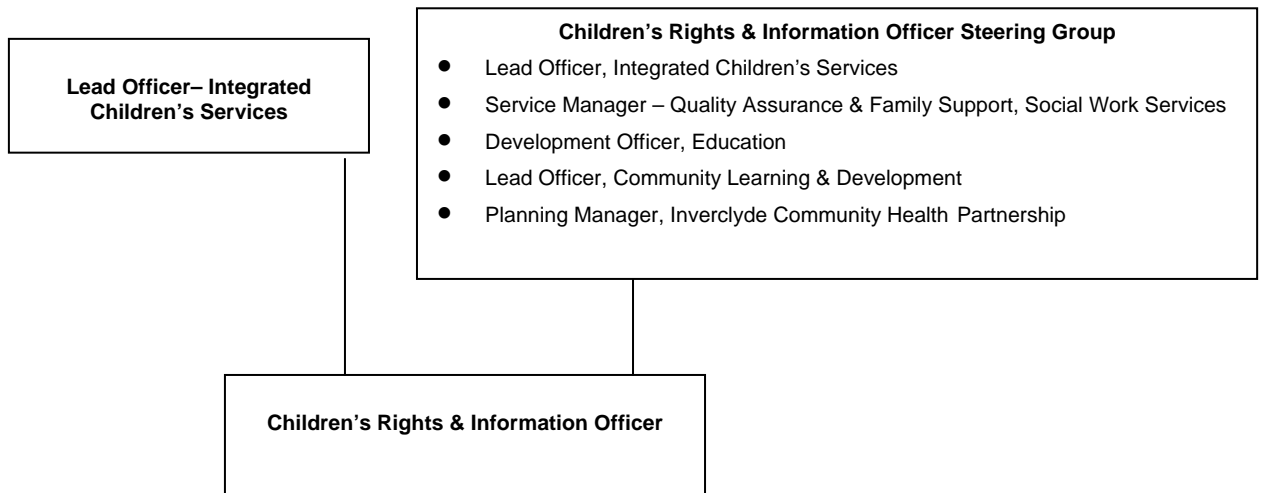
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# PART 1: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work carried out by Inverclyde's Children's Rights & Information Officer in the period from April 2008 to March 2009, and present the work plan for the period April 2009 to March 2010.
- 1.2 The post of Children's Rights & Information Officer was established within Inverclyde Council in February 2005.
- 1.3 Since 2006 the post has been based with Integrated Children's Services and is part of the Corporate Directorate of Education and Social Care.
- 1.4 The current postholder, Gerry McMurtrie, came into post in July 2008. This report therefore reflects work over three quarters of a year rather than a full twelve month period.
- 1.5 The work of the Children's Rights & Information Officer is overseen by a multi-agency Steering Group, comprising of representatives from Integrated Children's Services, Social Work, Health, Education Services and Community Learning and Development. These arrangements are illustrated in the diagram below.



## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most widely supported human rights agreement in the world. It sets out, in one internationally recognised document, the human rights that children (under the age of 18) should be entitled to. It is based on the premise that children's rights require special care and protection. A summary of the Convention is provided as **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 2.2 The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1989. It was ratified by the United Kingdom in 1991 and by the Scottish Parliament in 1999. Inverclyde Council formally adopted the Convention in 2005.
- 2.3 **Appendix 2** gives the job description for the post of the Children's Rights and Information Officer. The main focus of the role is to work with Inverclyde Council and its partners to promote children's rights and provide a focus for local responses to the work of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.
- 2.4 Whilst providing information about children's rights on request is within the remit, the post is not designed to offer advocacy or representation to or on behalf of individual children and young people.

## 3.0 Activities of the Children's Rights & Information Officer

- 3.1 Throughout 2008/2009 the Children's Rights & Information Officer has undertaken a range of activities to promote and uphold the rights of children and young people, which can be grouped as follows:
  - Working with groups of children and young people to provide information, advice and guidance and to support them in making their views known to service providers.
  - Working with other professionals to provide information, advice and guidance on children's rights / issues affecting children and young people.
  - Ensuring children's rights are reflected in policy, strategy and practice.
- 3.2 These activities are described in more detail in section 4, 5 and 6 below.
- 3.3 Whilst the post is located within Inverclyde Council, it is designed to work across all services and agencies within the Inverclyde area.
- 3.3 The Children's Rights & Information Officer is a member of Scotland's Children's Rights Officers Group (**Appendix 3**), which meets four times per annum and has close links with the Scottish Children's Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP), the Scottish Governments Children's Rights Team, and the Care Commission.

## 4.0 Promoting Awareness of Children’s Rights among Children and Young People

- 4.1 A range of activities has been undertaken involving children and young people. These included:
- Providing information to children and young people in school class room settings. This has been in the form of talks, group work, quizzes and drama workshops.
  - Enabling them to express their views to service providers; and
  - Supporting them to take part in activities which enable them to influence policy and practice, which has included being involved in the recruitment of staff, and being consulted in changes to school development plans and policies.
- 4.2 Information has been provided to children and young people in a variety of settings, including local youth groups. This has included general information in terms of rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as more specific information on rights as set out in UK and Scottish laws.
- 4.3 Information has also been provided through giving talks at school assemblies and leading group work in classrooms in a number of Inverclyde Primary and Secondary schools:
- Since September 2008 the Children’s Rights & Information Officer has been working with 9 Primary schools and 3 Secondary Schools to deliver information sessions and workshops in classroom settings and in school assemblies.
  - This has involved talking to young people about their rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and how they might be able to get involved in having their say and influencing policies.
  - Information leaflets on rights and the UNCRC have also been issued during each workshop.
  - Children’s Rights Questionnaires (**Appendix 4**) are distributed to each young person during the information sessions, and evaluations (**Appendix 5**) are compiled.
  - Comments from young people are detailed in **Appendix 6** of this report.
- 4.4 Full school sessions have also been delivered in 3 Inverclyde primary schools and 1 Inverclyde special school.
- 4.5 Information has also been provided to a group of children and young people receiving a service from Inverclyde’s Domestic Abuse Youth Worker. This involved a short input on rights and the UNCRC. Further work is planned to support the group to design a podcast enabling young people who have been affected by domestic abuse to share their experiences.
- 4.6 A number of Inverclyde Schools have been supported to achieve the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award (**Appendix 7**):
- This has involved assisting schools to set up pupil steering groups and to develop school action plans to ensure that Children’s Rights are embedded in the whole school ethos.
  - Currently three Inverclyde Primary schools have achieved the Level 2 Advanced award.
  - Two primary schools, one special school and one secondary school have registered and are working towards achieving UNICEF Rights Respecting School status.
  - The Children’s Rights and Information Officer offers support and guidance to staff and pupils to assist them in achieving accreditation.



- 4.7 The Children's Rights and Information Officer has attended Children's meetings within Inverclyde's Residential Children's Units. All children are issued with information packs which include information on their rights.
- 4.8 He has also been involved in consultation with young people during the Care Commission inspection process, ensuring that they are supported to voice their views and opinions.
- 4.9 Overall, awareness raising and information sessions have involved over 1,000 children and young people.

## 5.0 Promoting the involvement / participation of children and young people

Throughout 2008/09 the Children's Rights and Information Officer has been involved in the following activities that promote involvement and participation of young people:

- 5.1 Supporting young people involved in **Talkback**, a weekly evening group for Looked After and Accommodated young people.  
  
Other staff involved are the Who Cares? Scotland Worker, and a Youth Support Worker and Throughcare Development Worker from Inverclyde Council.  
  
The Talkback group have been involved in interviewing staff for posts within Children's Units, designing posters, hosting an information stall at a young person's participation day, and anti bullying leaflets.
- 5.2 Working with partners to develop a **Youth Health Forum**.  
  
A number of young people are currently involved in developing this group. The Youth Health Forum will give young people the opportunity to be directly consulted in all health matters within Inverclyde, and the opportunity to help shape health service provision for young people.
- 5.3 Developing new **Child Protection Leaflets**, by meeting with a number of looked after and ex looked after young people and supporting them to be involved in the design of the leaflets.
- 5.4 Being a member of the **Community Youth Development Practitioners Group** which looks at youth provision services for young people in Inverclyde. Young people are directly consulted and involved in the organisation of events.
- 5.5 Becoming of the staff group that supports the **Speak Up! Group**, a group of young people who are involved in organising activities for young people, and consulting with young people about issues that affect them. The Speak Up group will also support the development of the Inverclyde Youth Council.
- 5.6 Meeting with young people from the **Zero Status Magazine**, which is aimed at promoting the views and opinions of the young people of Inverclyde. The Children's Rights and Information Officer was interviewed for an article in the magazine on Children's Rights to help raise awareness of issues.
- 5.7 Supporting a **panel of young people** interviewing for the post of Youth Development Worker, including helping them to design their own interview questions, and to give feedback to the main interview panel.
- 5.8 Delivering an information session to the general public on Children's Rights in the Oak Mall Shopping Centre as part of the Children's Rights poster competition launch arranged by Children and staff from Earnhill Primary School.

## **6.0 Training / Raising awareness of children's rights among staff in agencies / services**

Throughout 2008/09 the Children's Rights and Information Officer has been involved in the following activities that have helped raise awareness of children's rights among staff in the agencies:

- 6.1 Providing in-service training on Children's Rights to one Primary school, one Secondary school and one Special school.
- 6.2 Giving a Children's Rights presentation in James Watt College to lecturers and students studying HNC Child Care.
- 6.3 Giving a presentation to the Arts Education Steering Group.
- 6.4 Developing Children's Rights page on the Inverclyde Council website, giving general information around Children's Rights.

Ensuring that Information about the Children's Rights and Information Officer is also included on the Inverclyde Child Protection website, and on the Inverclyde Council ICON website to provide updates on work carried out in schools and the rights promoting activities of children and young people.

## **7.0 Promoting Children's Rights in agency strategies, policies and procedures.**

Specific activities through 2008/09 that relate to this theme include:

- 7.1 Becoming part of the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Steering Group and has trained as an Equalities Champion.

The steering group looks at promoting Equalities and Human Rights in all services.

The Children's Rights and Information Officer has been involved in Equality Impact Assessment training and been involved in working groups looking at Social Work Policies ensuring that Children's & Human Rights are upheld in policy and procedures.

- 7.2 Contributing to the development of the Integrated Children's Service Plan 2009-11, ensuring that Articles from the UNCRC are linked into the plan.
- 7.3 Becoming a member of the Inverclyde Youth Strategy, a multi agency group looking at youth services and policies and ensuring agencies are meeting the needs of young people according to the UNCRC.
- 7.4 Becoming a member of the Youth Housing Sub Group, a sub group of the Housing and Homelessness Group. The Youth Housing Sub Group are currently looking at existing housing provision, housing policies and support that is available for young people in accordance to the UNCRC.

**Appendix 1**  
**Children & Young People's Rights**  
**United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child**

This version of the Convention has been produced by Save the Children.

**Article 1**

Everyone under 18 has these rights

**Article 2**

You have the right to protection against discrimination

**Article 3**

Adults should do what's best for you

**Article 4**

You have the right to have your rights made a reality by government

**Article 5**

You have the right to be given guidance by your parents and family

**Article 6**

You have the right to life

**Article 7**

You have the right to have a name and a nationality

**Article 8**

You have the right to have an identity

**Article 9**

You have the right to live with your parent's unless it is bad for you

**Article 10**

If you and your parents are living in different countries, you have the right to get back together and live in the same place

**Article 11**

You should not be kidnapped

**Article 12**

You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously

**Article 13**

You have the right to find out things and say what you think, through making art, speaking and writing unless it breaks the rights of others

**Article 14**

You have the right to think what you like and be whatever religion you want to be with your parent's guidance

**Article 15**

You have the right to be with friends and join or set up clubs, unless this breaks the rights of others

**Article 16**

You have the right to a private life, ie you can keep a diary that other people are not allowed to see

**Article 17**

You have the right to collect information from the media

**Article 18**

You have the right to be brought up by your parents if possible

**Article 19**

You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated

**Article 20**

You have the right to special protection and help if you can't live with your parents

**Article 21**

You have the right to have the best care for you if you are adopted or living in foster care

**Article 22**

You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee

**Article 23**

If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education

**Article 24**

You have the right to the best health possible and to medical care and information

**Article 25**

You have the right to have your living arrangements checked regularly if you are living away from home

**Article 26**

You have the right to help from the government if you are poor or in need

**Article 27**

You have the right to have a good enough standard of living

**Article 28**

You have the right to education

**Article 29**

You have the right to education which develops your personality, respect for other's rights and the environment

**Article 30**

If you come from a minority group you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practice your own religion and use your own language

**Article 31**

You have the right to play and relax by doing things like sport, music and drama

**Article 32**

You have the right to protection from work which is bad for your health or education

**Article 33**

You have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs

**Article 34**

You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse

**Article 35**

No one is allowed to kidnap you or sell you

**Article 36**

You have the right to protection from any other kind of exploitation

**Article 37**

You have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way

**Article 38**

You have the right to protection in times of war. If under 15 you should never have to be in the army or a battle

**Article 39**

You have the right to help if you have been hurt, neglected or badly treated

**Article 40**

You have the right to help in defending yourself if you are accused of breaking the law

**Article 41**

You have the right to any rights in laws in your country or internationally that give you better rights than these

**Article 42**

All adults and children should know about this convention

Articles 43 - 54 are about how governments and international organisations will work to give children their rights.

## Appendix 2

<b>JOB DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b><u>Post Title:</u></b>	Children's Rights & Information Officer
<b><u>Service:</u></b>	Social Work
<b><u>Section:</u></b>	Integrated Children's Services
<b><u>Responsible to:</u></b>	Project Manager
<b><u>Overall Purpose of the Job:</u></b>	
<p>The post of Children's Rights &amp; Information Officer is central to the Council's commitment to equality and the promotion of children's rights through all aspects of its service planning and delivery. It involves working with staff in all Council services and those in other public sector and voluntary sector partners to ensure that the rights of children are understood and promoted. It also involves direct engagement with children and young people to provide information and advice, and to encourage their participation in the formation of policy and service development.</p>	
<b><u>Main Duties and Responsibilities</u></b>	
1.	To work to promote the provision of information, advice and support to young people in the Inverclyde area.
2.	To work with Inverclyde Council, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and any other public or voluntary sector organisations working with, or providing services to, children and young people through the provision of advice and assistance to ensure that the services they provide secure children's rights in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
3.	To offer advice and guidance to senior officers and service providers about children's rights issues and relevant legislation.
4.	To take part in appropriate service planning to ensure that children's rights are promoted in the development of policies, strategies and services.
5.	To assist service planners in integrating children's rights and participation into appropriate in-service training and staff development strategies.
6.	To offer advice, guidance and consultation to service providers to increase knowledge of children's rights issues and promote a collaborative approach.
7.	To support children and young people to take part in activities which enable them to influence policy and practice and enable them to convey their views to service providers.

<b>8.</b>	To set up local consultative fora and networks for children and young people to complement existing services.
<b>9.</b>	To devise and deliver training, awareness raising sessions and briefings to inform staff and children and young people on children's rights.
<b>10.</b>	To produce reports for senior management, Council committees and other groups as required, including an annual report on children's rights work undertaken in Inverclyde.
<b>11.</b>	To ensure there are processes in place to systematically record, monitor and evaluate the work of the Children's Rights and Information
<b>12.</b>	To keep up to date with policy and research relating to children's rights and ensure this is integrated into practice.
<b>13.</b>	To undertake any other duties and responsibilities appropriate to the grade as directed by management.

Note: Where relevant, the general statements contained in this job description should be considered in the context of their relationship with other Council Policies, Procedures, operating arrangements, and other statutory responsibilities of Officers.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Group**

#### **Statement of Purpose**

The Children's Rights Officer's Group in Scotland is made up of all the Children's Rights Officers employed by Local Authorities in Scotland, whether directly or through voluntary agencies. Members can choose whether or not they wish to attend the group.

The group meets quarterly at different locations around Scotland. Members of the group all have different roles within their own Local Authority. However their work is always underpinned by the principles of the UNCRC and on Scottish law based on this.

The purpose of the group is to promote the rights of children in Scotland by sharing good practice, and by identifying, taking forward and finding ways to address issues of concern. Members will take part in the group to represent the rights and interests of children to whom they provide a service and in doing this, will comply with the expectations of their employing agency.

The group will agree a Chairperson at their first meeting of the year. That person will act as the link with other organisations and bodies with a role to promote and protect children's rights. This will include the Scottish Government, SCCYP, ADSW, SACR, Who Cares? Scotland, The Care Commission and others as appropriate.

A minute taker will be agreed on a rotating basis. They will minute each meeting of the group for circulating only to group members.

A contact list will be held and updated. This will be available for circulation within the group, to partner agencies and to other relevant bodies on request.

**May 2009**



Appendix 4

**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS QUESTIONNAIRE**

Date:

School:

**Do you think that children and young people have rights??**

Yes

No

Don't know

**Have you heard of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?**

Yes

No

**If you have, do you know what it is?**

Yes

No

**If you answered yes, do you know what your rights are?**

Yes

No

If you do, please list as many as you can think of:



Have you ever been given information about what your rights are?

Yes

No

Don't know

If you answered yes, who/where did you get this information from?

Youth Group  School

Social Work  Internet

Other (please list)

Would you like more information about what your rights are?

Yes  No  Don't Know

If you answered yes, how would you like to be given it?

Talk  E-mail/Internet

Leaflets  CD-Rom/DVD  Other

Do you think that adults who you have contact with respect your rights?

Yes  No  Don't Know

**What age are you?**

**What year/class are you in?**

**What issues are you concerned or worried about at the moment?**

(These could be things that affect only you or children and young people as a group in Inverclyde)

**What should be done about this?**

Appendix 5

**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EVALUATION**

Date:

School:

**Did you enjoy learning about your rights?**

I really enjoyed it

It was OK

I didn't enjoy it

**Do you know more about your rights after doing the activities?**

Yes

Maybe

No

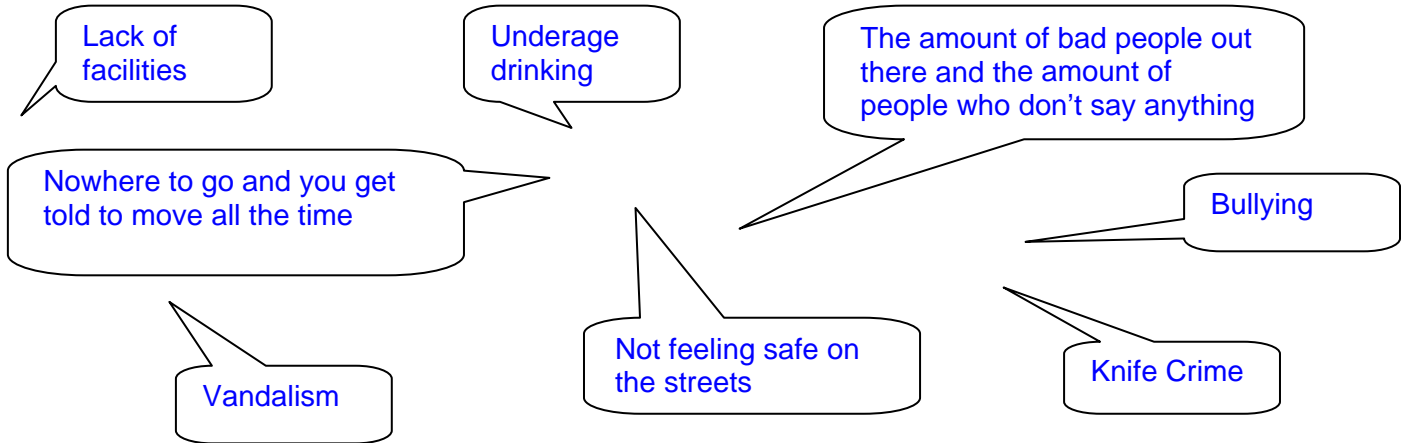
**What did you like most?**

**What did you like least?**

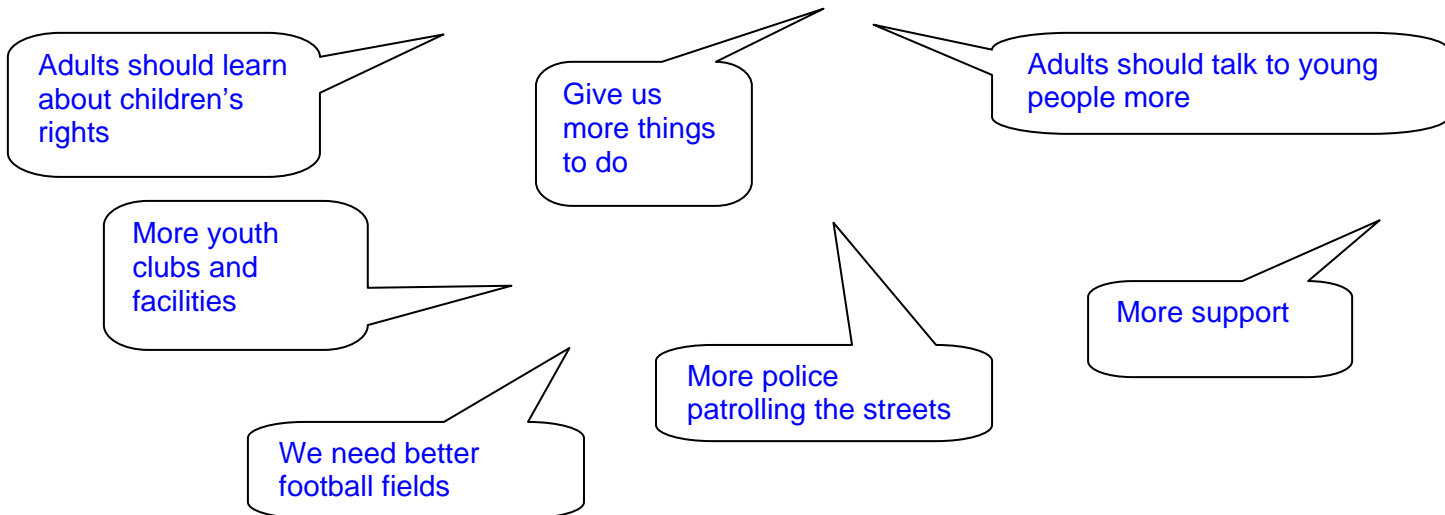
**Is there anything else you would like to say?**

## Appendix 6

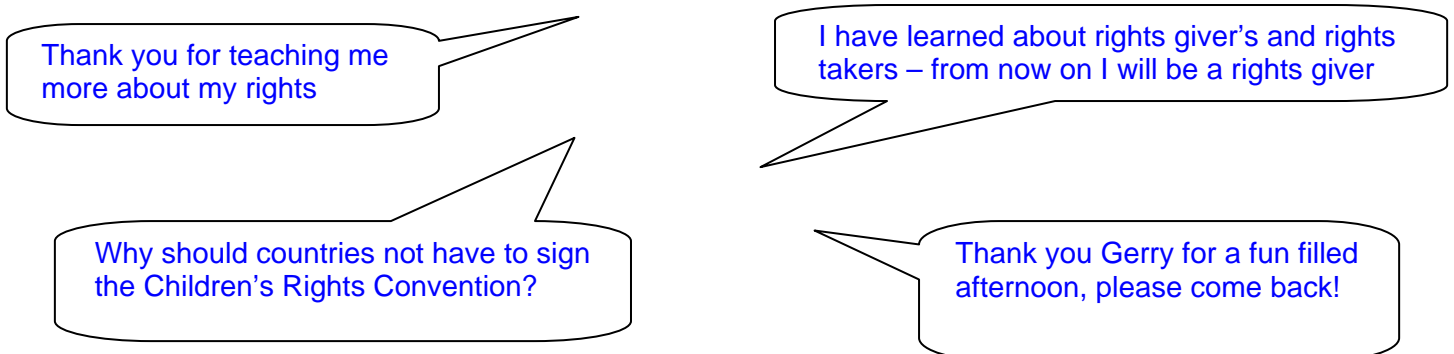
What issues are you concerned or worried about at the moment?



What should be done about this?



Is there anything else you would like to say?



## Appendix 7

# UNICEF UK'S RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD



### **THE IDEA IN A NUTSHELL**

Children and young people can raise their achievement at school and improve the quality of their own and their families' lives if they learn exactly what their rights and responsibilities are according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and how to use this understanding as a guide to living.

Children and young people will know how to go about making informed decisions and become confident, active citizens if this rights / responsibilities guide to living is introduced at an early age and is reinforced throughout school life,

UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award is an effective way of inspiring and supporting schools who want to provide children and young people with a rights-respecting guide to living.

### **Improves children's well-being**

The Rights Respecting Schools Award is premised on the understanding that for children to want to achieve they have to feel included, that they belong, that they matter.

Learning that you have certain rights, now, simply because you are a child provides a starting point for building self-esteem. Bridges can be built to the very vulnerable and abused. They can become empowered by learning that there is an alternative to the negative world of their early years.

From this starting point too, children can begin to make connections with the needs and rights of other children. Thus begins the journey of learning about our rights and responsibilities and the values that underpin this way of seeing. This approach brings children into early contact with ideas of interdependence and thus the need for cooperation.

Learning that the way "things are done" in school is based on rights and responsibilities drawn from the articles of the UNCRC connects with all children because:

- It appeals to their self-interest
- It connects them to children everywhere.
- It derives from a higher authority (all but 2 of the world's nations) and is not simply the school's rules / mission statement

Knowing that they have a right to participate, to have a voice in decisions that affect them arouses their interest and opens the way to exploring the skills, language and concepts required to exercise this right and the responsibilities that accompany it.

For further information: [www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa](http://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa)

# **PART 2 WORK PLAN FOR 2009/10**

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This part of the report gives an outline of some of the key elements of the work plan for the Children's Rights and Information Officer for the period April 2009 to March 2010.
- 1.2 The work plan will be developed in fuller detail in consultation with the Children's Rights Steering Group and with reference to issues raised by young people themselves through work in schools, the Talkback Group, the Speak Up! Group, and other consultative mechanisms.
- 1.3 The work plan is dynamic, with the in-built capacity to incorporate new issues or areas of work as appropriate.

## **2.0 Activities Involving Children & Young People: Information**

Between April 2009 and March 2010 the Children's Rights and Information Officer will:

- Build on existing work and continue to raise awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Raising awareness among young people will be done in the following ways:
  - Providing information to young people.
  - Delivering talks in school assemblies.
  - Making information on the UNCRC and specific legislation readily available within secondary schools
  - Delivering group work sessions to youth groups.
  - Delivering talks to Child Care students from James Watt College.
  - Delivering talks to Social Care students from James Watt College.
- Continue to work with local Primary, Secondary and Special Schools and offer support to those working towards UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award.
- Develop a Children's Rights Leaflet to be distributed to all local schools and to local organisations providing support to Children and Young People.
- Developing improved information systems to collate statistical information on the number of children and young people who have been given information on children's rights in various ways.

### **3.0 Activities Involving Children & Young People: Consultation / Expressing Views to Service Providers**

Throughout the next year work will continue to focus on supporting young people to participate and articulate their views to agencies and service providers. This will include:

- Continuing to promote the participation, where appropriate, of young people in the selection process of staff in children's services
- Participating in further work in relation to the Talkback process for promoting consultation with, and the participation of, children and young people who are Looked After and Accommodated in Inverclyde.
- Consulting with young people as part of the forthcoming Young Person's Participation day for Look After and Accommodated Young People.
- Continuing to support the Speak Up! Group to consult other young people about issues they face living in Inverclyde.
- Supporting the further development of the Inverclyde Youth Health Forum
- Supporting the Inverclyde Youth Council Elections
- The Children's Rights and Information Officer is now a member of the NHS Rights of the Child Group based at Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow. He will consult with young people in hospital settings about matters affecting them.
- Developing improved information systems to collate statistical information on the number of children and young people who have been supported in consultative and participative activities and events.

### **4.0 Advice, Guidance & Information to Other Professionals**

Through 2009/10 the Children's Rights and Information Officer will:

- Continue to respond to requests for advice, guidance and information from staff in all agencies and services in Inverclyde.
- Continue to respond to requests for advice, guidance and information from children, young people and adults.
- Distribute the newly developed Children's Rights leaflet to public offices offering services to Children and Young People, ensuring that professionals are aware of the UNCRC and able to contact the Children's Rights and Information Officer for advice and guidance.
- Developing improved information systems to collate statistical information on the number of staff who have been provided with information and guidance on children's rights.



## **5.0 Children's Rights Training**

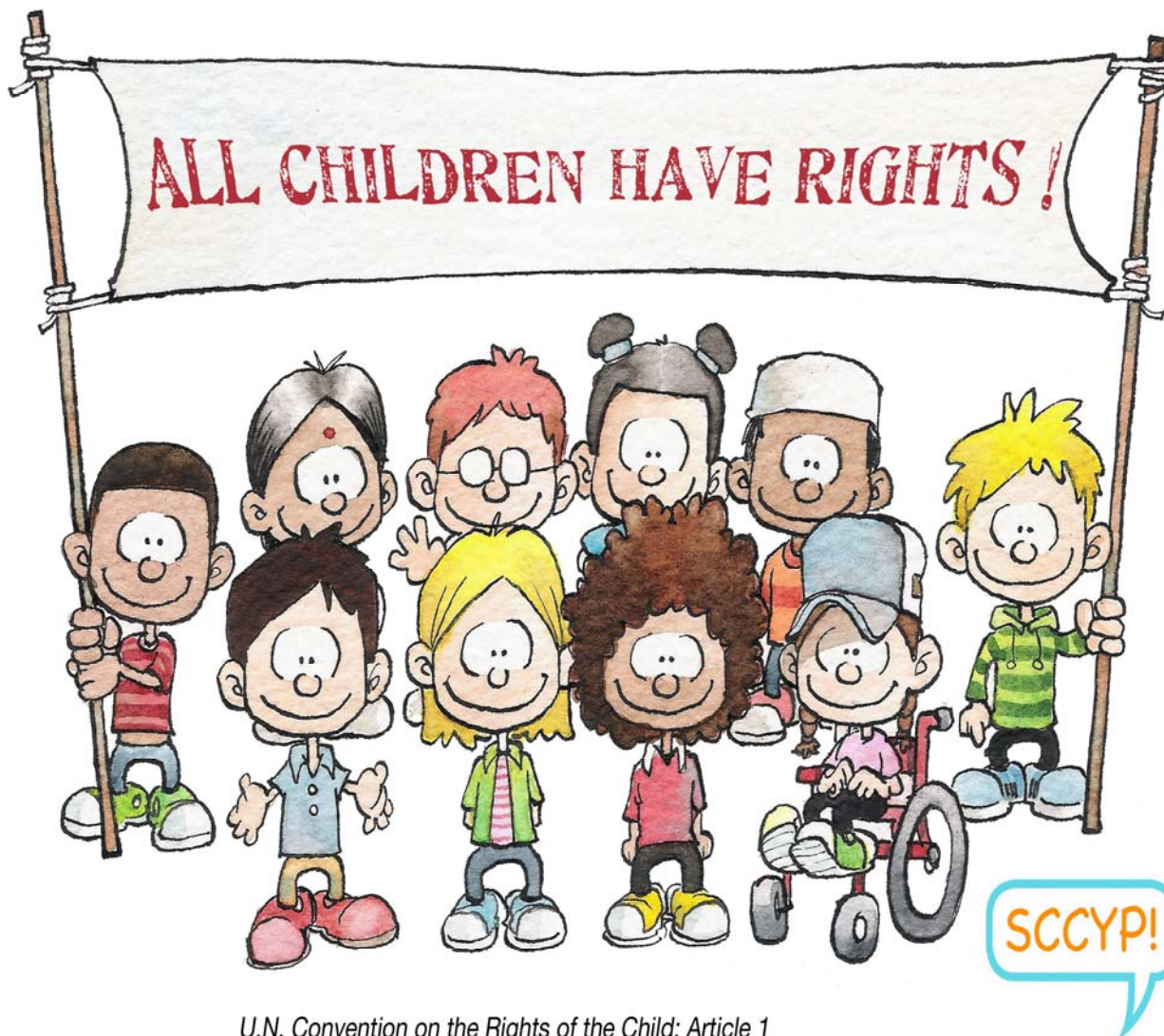
Through 2009/10 the Children's Rights and Information Officer will:

- Continue to develop and deliver or commission training for staff on children's rights issues. The detail of this will be worked out with the Children's Rights Steering Group, with attention paid to new issues or opportunities.
- In consultation with the Steering Group, look at developing Children's Rights Training delivered by young people to other young people, particularly using schools who have achieved UNICEF'S Rights Respecting Status.
- Collating statistical information on the number of training sessions provided and the numbers who have participated.

## **6.0 Children Rights in the Development of Policies & Strategies**

Through 2009/10 the Children's Rights and Information Officer will:

- As part of the Scottish Children's Rights Officer's Group, continue to look at new policies and legislations and work closely with the office of the Scottish Children's Commissioner (SCCYP) and the Scottish Government Children's Rights Service.
- In conjunction with the Assistant Service Manager, Training Section, look at current training provision to ensure Children's Rights and the UNCRC are included in induction and training courses.
- Together with the Assistant Service Manager, Policy Section, Social Work Services develop an Equalities web page on the Inverclyde Council website.  
The Children's Rights and Information Officer will also be involved in developing publications, training and consultations around equality issues.
- Continue to give advice to services who are developing new policies and strategies to ensure that Children's Rights are embedded in practice.



*U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 1*

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Thanks to Scotland's Commissioner for Children & Young People and Illustrator Alex Leonard for use of their illustration