

# Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

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## Media Release

01/02/2011

### A Conservative view on children's issues

#### ***Children in Scotland's* exclusive interview series continues with Annabel Goldie**

An over-rigid approach to childcare in Scotland undermines the ability of some parents to work and needs to change, says leader of the Scottish Conservatives Annabel Goldie in the February issue of *Children in Scotland* magazine, published today.

In the second of a series of exclusive interviews with main party leaders on key issues affecting children and families, Goldie also expresses interest in considering the anomalies arising from split responsibility for early years, with children's tax credits set in London.

She calls for more flexibility in preschool education entitlements for 3- and 4-year-olds, outlines Conservative proposals to expand the role of health visitors, and demands greater freedom for headteachers to make decisions about their schools – which could extend to making more use of schools and school premises, possibly to provide preschool and out of school services, if that better meets the needs of the local community.

Goldie told *Children in Scotland*: "At the moment there is rigidity in the hour span you can use. That can cut against the ability of a parent to work. The help the state provides needs to fit the individual, rather than the individual having to fit the way the state wants to provide it."

#### **Notes to Editors**

1. *Children in Scotland* published an exclusive interview with Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Tavish Scott in January. Scottish Labour leader Iain Gray speaks to the magazine in March and First Minister Alex Salmond in April.
2. *Children in Scotland* is published monthly and is the only magazine to cover all areas of the Scottish children's sector.
3. Children in Scotland will host a pre-election hustings event on 31 March, featuring key representatives of the main parties discussing issues relating to education and childcare across Scotland.
4. **Children in Scotland** is the longstanding national agency for the whole of the children's sector, reaching over 250,000 individuals through our extensive membership of more than 450 statutory agencies, voluntary sector organisations, professional associations and community groups. For further information visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk).

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