

Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

Media Release

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Children's agency books in for member event

It will be politics meets penmanship in Edinburgh tomorrow when Children in Scotland welcomes Robin Harper MSP and literary star Alexander McCall Smith to its annual members' reception at the Scottish Parliament, which will also mark the parliamentary launch of the organisation's Manifesto for the 2011 Scottish election.

Attended by staff and invited guests, the event will acknowledge the continued work of Children in Scotland, the national agency which represents and supports the children's sector throughout the country. It will also be a chance for the organisation to thank its members for their continued support.

Despite challenging times, which have seen funding cuts affect children and their families, Children in Scotland has continued to drive forward within the children's sector, through workforce development projects, a comprehensive programme of training and publications to support professionals, and by consistently providing evidence to inform key Scottish Government legislation, which most recently has included amendments to The Education (Additional Support for Learning)(Scotland) Act 2009 and to the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Bill.

Ahead of the reception Chief Executive of Children in Scotland, Bronwen Cohen said: "As we launch our Manifesto at the Parliament, we welcome the opportunity to celebrate our shared goals, acknowledge what we have achieved, but also address the challenges we have ahead of us in 2011, as we, along with our members continue to build better childhoods for Scotland's young people."

Alexander McCall Smith said: "The lifelong benefits of inspiring spaces, community and a sense of place are key themes of my writing, so it is a pleasure to support Children in Scotland, an organisation that promotes these aims for children and young people."

Notes to Editors

1. **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.

2. Children in Scotland's Manifesto for the 2011 Scottish Parliament Election, 'Investing in the Wealth of Our Nation through – Smarter Services and Better Childhoods', includes a call for all parties and candidates to commit to ten election pledges which will improve the lives of children, young people and their families in Scotland.

It can be downloaded from www.childreninscotland.org.uk/manifesto

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