

Media Release

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Broadening access to services for families Should Scottish schools offer space for school age childcare?

After the Independent Budget Review, the challenge ahead is how to improve services for children and families as budgets are being cut – and maybe using school facilities more effectively to provide better access to high quality services could be part of the answer, according to the latest edition of *Children in Scotland* magazine, published this week.

The second of the magazine's profiles of the Swedish school system looks at how Swedish schools have achieved a more closely integrated workforce, better access to services and a structure popular with parents and children – and taxpayers – by operating preschools and school age childcare within school buildings, and asks if Scotland should do the same.

Eva Lod, director of the quality and development unit in the educational administration office of Vallentuna (on the outskirts of Stockholm) told the magazine Swedish taxpayers are more willing to pay taxes for preschools than for some social services. She says: "The school services are very popular. The taxpayers think that's very important and they are very satisfied with the systems, and so they pay. They pay for healthcare as well, but they are not so satisfied with that!"

Other articles look at how using channels that already exist within schools more effectively can make a big difference to the support available for the number of Scottish children each year who experience a parent's imprisonment – more than those that experience a parent's divorce; how taking 'school' beyond the gates through outdoor learning can benefit whole families; and how more effective joined-up thinking and partnership working will be crucial in tackling Scotland's gang culture.

Notes to Editors

1. *Children in Scotland* magazine is published monthly and covers a wide range of policy and practice issues of interest to those working with children and families across the children's sector. It is available free to Children in Scotland members or on subscription. The next issue, in September, profiles the General Teaching Council of Scotland and looks at design for play ahead of the autumn conferences 'Playing Outside' and 'Making Space 2010'.
2. The Children in Europe conference 'Playing Outside' takes place on 16 September 2010 at Balbirnie House Hotel, Markinch, Fife, with speakers including Minister for

Children and Early Years Adam Ingram, Susan Deacon, and executive director for Fife Council Kenneth Greer.

3. 'Making Space 2010' takes place on 7–8 October at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, with supporting events in Glasgow, Edinburgh and East and West Lothian. Making Space 2010 is an international award and conference promoting innovation, creativity and sustainability in design for children and young people aged 0–18.
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.

For further information on any of the articles mentioned or to request a copy of the magazine contact Tracey Francis

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