

Media Release

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Children in Scotland welcomes new Convener

Sandy Wylie, Lord Kinclaven, will become the new Convener of Children in Scotland in February, taking over from the Right Honourable Lord Robert Reed who steps down after 6 years in the post.

Lord Kinclaven said:

“This is a tough time for families in Scotland and we need to make sure we are not just ‘weathering the storm’, but putting in place a solid framework that can provide real support for the health and wellbeing of every child and young person in Scotland. That may not be an easy task, but it is central to our future.

“Children in Scotland will continue to make a uniquely valuable contribution to making sure our youngest citizens, who will live with the consequences of the decisions we take now, are at the heart of our thinking and policymaking and not pushed to the fringes.”

Sandy Wylie is a Senator of the College of Justice and a judge of the Court of Session and High Court of Justiciary, dealing with a wide variety of criminal and civil cases. He studied Law at the University of Edinburgh before qualifying as a solicitor in 1976, and became a Queen’s Council in 1991. He was appointed to the Bench in 2005.

He has been involved in a number of educational initiatives and devised the Faculty of Advocates ‘MiniTrial’ initiative, through which over 1000 pupils in the last 10 years have taken part in the reconstruction in a real courtroom of a criminal jury trial, hearing evidence and returning a verdict as jurors. The programme has also been adapted for younger pupils.

Children in Scotland is the only membership organisation to represent every part of the children’s sector in Scotland, including statutory bodies, charities, and voluntary and private organisations.

Chief executive Bronwen Cohen said:

“Children in Scotland is unique in connecting all those who work with and for children and their families across Scotland, and beyond. Our national and international networks ensure policies and services in Scotland take into account the voices and opinions of children and their families, and reflect the best aspirations in Europe.”

Notes to Editors

1. The Convener chairs Children in Scotland's Board of Directors, which includes **Stewart Forsyth**, former Medical Director of Ninewells Hospital and Medical School; **Keir Bloomer**, Chair of Court at Queen Margaret University; **Gillian Donald**, Partner at Scott Moncrieff; **Celia Gardiner**, NHS Scotland; **Gillian Tee**, Director of Children and Families at City of Edinburgh Council; **Mary Smith**, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities; **Sally McNair**, Broadcaster and Journalist; **Ian Wall**, former Chief Executive of the EDI Group Ltd; and **Irene Audain**, Chief Executive of the Scottish Out of School Care Network.
2. **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.

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