

Media Release

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Celebrating 10 years of a unique service

With the government's Just Ask campaign well under way Enquire, Scotland's national advisory service for additional support for learning, celebrates its 10th anniversary at Edinburgh Castle this evening with members and partners of Children in Scotland, the organisation that manages the service on behalf of the Scottish government, at an event hosted by Minister for Children and Early Years Adam Ingram to celebrate the past 10 years of Children in Scotland's work across the children's services sector.

Enquire's unique service provides information and advice on additional support for learning to children, young people and their families through a telephone helpline, their website and a range of publications and leaflets.

Children in Scotland will also celebrate the launch of the new Children's Sector Forum in November, which brings organisations across the children's sector together to work for improved child wellbeing and lasting benefits for young people.

Minister for Children and Early Years Adam Ingram said:

"Children in Scotland and its members play a crucial role in delivering positive outcomes for children and their families. As we reach the first anniversary of the publication of the Early Years Framework I am delighted to host this event to celebrate this organisation's valued contribution towards influencing policies that will improve children and young people's health, education and employability. Children in Scotland has been instrumental in pushing the boundaries of our thinking and I look forward to continuing to work with them as we implement the Early Years Framework across Scotland, improving outcomes and opportunities for all."

The Convener of Children in Scotland, the Right Honourable Lord Reed, said:

"What Children in Scotland's members have in common is an interest and concern in making life better for Scotland's children and families. We hear from our international partners just how important they think it is to have an organisation able to draw on the views from across such a wide spectrum. Children in Scotland is well placed to serve as the eyes and ears for the sector in ways that are not always possible for government and other institutions, and the Children's Sector Forum will be an important contribution to this."

Expressing appreciation of Enquire's service, parent Karen Ryan from Angus said:

“I can honestly say that without this help and my conversation with an Enquire staff member I really feel that my daughter would have been leaving school this year. As a result of helping me understand my daughter’s legal rights, she is staying on at school for another year – thank you! This was the outcome we wanted.”

Notes to Editors

1. **Children in Scotland** is the 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. Enquire is the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning managed by Children in Scotland and funded by the Scottish government. The free service offers advice and information through a national helpline, written responses to emails and its website. It also offers training and talks and produces a range of free publications. For more information visit www.Enquire.org.uk.
3. In the past 10 years over 12,600 people have contacted Enquire to discuss a child’s education. Over 8500 people have attended Enquire information events and over 77,000 people have been sent a Parents’ Guide.
4. The need for, and right to, additional support for learning can be triggered by a wide range of circumstances, including (but not limited to): physical disability; young carers’ responsibilities; behavioural difficulties; the needs of looked-after children; problems at home; social or emotional difficulties; or whatever other learning difficulties keep children from succeeding in school.

For further information contact Tracey Francis at tfrancis@childreninscotland.org.uk or on 0131 222 2419