



**Media Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE on 11 October 2011**

**Chief Executive announces retirement –  
Organisation begins search for a successor to champion the rights of  
children, young people and families in Scotland**

Children in Scotland Chief Executive, Dr. Bronwen Cohen, has today announced that she will be stepping down from the role in July 2012.

Dr. Cohen, who in 2006 was awarded an OBE for services to the children's sector in Scotland, can be credited with helping to drive forward legislative change and development within the sector since she joined the organisation as Chief Executive in 1990 from the University of Edinburgh.

High-level research overseen by Dr. Cohen covers work across children's services, with a particular focus on services and policies for young children; family policy; equal opportunities; rural development; education and child welfare; additional support needs, and workforce issues relating to children and young people. Her own work (and extensive list of publications) has included early years strategic analysis and cost benefit carried out for IPPR, reports on early years services and policies for the European Commission and a major ESRC funded programme examining the reform of children's services in England, Scotland and Sweden.

Building on previous experience at EU level, she has achieved a high profile for the organisation internationally. Children in Scotland publishes the English-language edition of the award-winning magazine, *Children in Europe*, which is now published in 15 languages across Europe, as well as the publications series *Building better childhoods: international perspectives*.

Dr. Cohen also initiated the Making Space award, funded by the Scottish Government and the OECD Centre for Learning Environments, and was, most recently, the Programme Director for an EU and Scottish Government funded programme, Working for Inclusion and the Scottish Government supported programme Working it Out.

Following the announcement, Dr. Cohen said: "I have established a strong team at Children in Scotland, who will continue to fulfill our goal of developing a collaborative, cross-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approach to improving the lives of every Scottish child."

Lord Reed, Convener of the Board of Directors at Children in Scotland commented: ""Dr. Cohen has established Children in Scotland as an internationally respected organisation, widely admired for its independent analysis and views. Her successor will need to continue her legacy."

Gillian Tee, Director of Children and Families at City of Edinburgh Council and member of the Board of Directors at Children in Scotland said: "The work led by Bronwen Cohen at Children in Scotland has been invaluable in bringing together different perspectives and partnerships to inform the development of children's services in Scotland. The high quality policy analysis, and events have served to inspire and encourage all those working with and for children and young people."

The process of recruiting a successor to Dr. Cohen has now begun.

### **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](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk)

The Children in Scotland Annual Conference 2011, 'Meeting of Minds: working together to build better lives for children', held in association with City of Edinburgh Council will take place on 3-4 November 2011, in Edinburgh.

[www.childreninscotland.org.uk/minds](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/minds)

2. **Children in Europe** magazine is published twice a year, simultaneously in 15 languages, by a network of national magazines in 17 countries. Its main aim is to enable the exchange of ideas, practice and information, focusing in particular on young children.  
[www.childrenineurope.org](http://www.childrenineurope.org)
3. **Working for Inclusion** looked at how the early years workforce can address poverty and promote social inclusion.  
[www.childreninscotland.org.uk/wfi](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/wfi)
4. **Working it Out** focused on shaping the future of Scotland's children's sector workforce, and invited employers, planners, universities, colleges and other stakeholders to debate future workforce development.  
[www.childreninscotland.org.uk/workforce](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/workforce)

**For further information, including images, arranging interviews and additional biographical detail, contact Lynn Gilmour, [lgilmour@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:lgilmour@childreninscotland.org.uk) or 0131 222 2443.**