

Budget Media Statement – on Early Years investment

17/11/2010

Early Years and Early Intervention Fund will not protect young children from poverty

Children in Scotland welcomes today's announcement of the Government's Early Years and Early Intervention Fund, but is disappointed that the package of £5 million available to voluntary organisations to deliver early intervention will not be enough to address the main issue – delivering the vision for transformational change in the Early Years Framework.

We believe more could have been done to redirect resources into filling the gaps in Scotland's totally inadequate education and childcare infrastructure. This would make the greatest impact on the unacceptably high levels of child poverty in Scotland, to which families with children under 5 are particularly vulnerable. (Currently one household in four with children under 5, and one household in five with children over 5, live in poverty in Scotland.)

The evidence we are now receiving is that local authorities are struggling to meet current demands for provision, let alone extend services in line with the 10-year plan set out in the Early Years Framework.

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.

For further information contact Tracey Francis

Email tfrancis@childreninscotland.org.uk / tel 0131 222 2419