

Media response 26/5/11

First Minister should tackle not just sectarianism but its causes

Children in Scotland welcomes the First Minister's intention to tackle sectarianism and commitment to early legislation on "booze and bigotry". But the government will also need to tackle the causes of sectarianism and other inequalities.

We already know working towards integrated, universally accessible services for children and families is the key to improving outcomes for children, and supporting their parents, to build better, stronger communities. It is also key for tackling sectarianism, racism and other forms of prejudice.

Chief executive of Children in Scotland Bronwen Cohen said:

"We are looking forward to the new government's promised legislation on early years, which will not only help families and Scotland's economy but can contribute to a better understanding and valuing of difference and diversity. The challenge now facing the government is to make the right choices to bring the best return for Scotland by prioritising children and families."

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