

Children in Scotland

every child - every childhood

Media Release

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Iain Gray on Labour's plans for children and young people *Children in Scotland* exclusive interview series continues

A drive on literacy in schools will be central to Labour's proposals for children and young people – but funding remains a stumbling block to commitments on early years and childcare, Scottish Labour leader Iain Gray tells *Children in Scotland* magazine, published today.

In the third of a series of exclusive interviews with main party leaders on key issues affecting children and families, Gray guarantees training or volunteering opportunities to school leavers not in work or full time education, and outlines his views on free schools, single outcome agreements and flexible local taxation.

Ahead of the publication of party manifestos he says Labour will focus on outcomes and approved accountability.

Gray told *Children in Scotland*: "Parents will get a guarantee from us that at the very least if their children go through the school system they will come out functionally literate and numerate. I think that's a reasonable expectation in 21st century Scotland, and they don't have that at the moment."

Notes to Editors

1. *Children in Scotland* will publish an exclusive interview with First Minister Alex Salmond in April. Interviews have been published with Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Tavish Scott in January and Scottish Conservative leader Annabel Goldie in February.
2. *Children in Scotland* is published monthly and is the only magazine to cover all areas of the Scottish children's sector.
3. Children in Scotland will host a pre-election hustings event on 31 March, featuring key representatives of the main parties discussing issues relating to education and childcare across Scotland.
4. **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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