

Scottish Government Initial Consultation on Social Responsibility Levy

Response from Children in Scotland

Children in Scotland welcomes the opportunity to comment on the initial proposals for a social responsibility framework and levy.

At this stage, we wish to comment on the five licensing objectives, namely: preventing crime and disorder, securing public safety, preventing public nuisance, protecting and improving public health, and protecting children from harm. When it comes to spending the funds the levy would generate, at least 10% should be allocated to each of the five categories, with the distribution of the remaining amount to be determined at local level.

The more high profile spending of the levy revenue on, for example, extra police presence and street cleaning, should not detract from the stated criteria of protecting and improving public health, and protecting children from harm. Ring-fencing of funding for these last two objectives would be welcomed.

As it is suggested that licence-holders who demonstrate good practice would receive reduction in the levy, they should all be provided with examples of what constitutes 'good practice' in each of these five areas., for the on and off trade and different types of licence-holders. Children in Scotland would be happy to assist the Scottish Government and/or licensing authorities in highlighting relevant and meaningful actions around 'protecting children from harm'.

We look forward to reading, and commenting on, the subsequent version.

We would be happy to answer questions about, or expand upon any of these points.

Contact:

Sara Collier
Assistant Policy/Research Officer
Children in Scotland
0131 222 2412
scollier@childreninscotland.org.uk

Children in Scotland is the national umbrella agency for organisations and professionals working with and for children, young people and their families. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that policies and services and other provisions are of the highest possible quality and are able to meet the needs of a diverse society. Children in Scotland represents more than 400 members, including 90% of Scottish local authorities, all major voluntary, statutory and private children's agencies, professional organisations, as well as many other smaller community groups and children's services. It is linked with similar agencies in other parts of the UK and Europe.

The work of Children in Scotland encompasses extensive information, policy, research and practice development programmes. The agency works closely with MSPs, the Scottish Government, local authorities and practitioners. It also services groups such as the Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Children and Young People (with YouthLink Scotland). In addition, Children in Scotland hosts Enquire - the national advice service for additional support for learning, and Resolve: ASL, Scotland's largest independent education mediation service.