

Media Release

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Investing in children and young people gives the best return on limited resources Smarter working key to delivering better services, conference will hear

Children and young people are better served when providers work together, at national and local levels and across professions – and smarter services save money too, delegates will hear at Children in Scotland’s annual conference in Stirling on 4 and 5 November.

Wealth of a nation: Building smarter services for Scotland’s children and young people, held in collaboration with Stirling Council, focuses on how to get the best from hard pressed resources by addressing the practical challenges of integrated working, including developing a successful multi-agency approach, engaging better with families, and ensuring a workforce that is qualified for the task.

A workshop programme will share good practice across Stirling, including health promotion in early years through nurseries; intervention with young people engaged in antisocial behaviour; and supporting young people in influencing the services provided for them.

Speakers include Minister for Children and Early Years Adam Ingram; cofounder of The Inequality Trust Richard Wilkinson; Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Jim Martin; and Kate McKay, National Clinical Leader for Child Health for the Scottish Government.

Children and Early Years Minister Adam Ingram said:

“There is now a comprehensive range of evidence that the early years are crucial for a child’s future health, wellbeing and development. The evidence is also overwhelming on the lasting impacts failure to support a child’s early years can have on their future life chances. That’s why we need to work together to drive forward and accelerate work already underway to implement the Early Years Framework and related frameworks Achieving Our Potential and Equally Well, aimed at tackling poverty and health inequalities. We also need to work together to protect and agree on how best to deliver children’s early years services at a time of unprecedented pressures on public expenditure.”

Children in Scotland Chief Executive Bronwen Cohen said:

“The challenge we face is to achieve better outcomes for all children and young people and the best support for their families when money and other resources are in short supply. The conference looks at a variety of approaches and initiatives, including ‘smarter’

ways of organising services and delivering initial education and training, and further developing the concept of learning communities.”

Linda Kinney, Assistant Chief Executive for Stirling Council, said:

“We are facing a time of unprecedented change. If we are to continue our commitment to improve the life chances of all our children, councils must work collaboratively and creatively with partner agencies and local communities. By sharing our understandings and achievements we can be clear about our future priorities and keep faith with our core vision and long term aims for Scotland’s children.”

Notes to Editors

1. *Wealth of a nation: Building smarter services for Scotland’s children and young people* will take place on 4–5 November 2010 at Stirling Management Centre, the University of Stirling. The conference is being held by Children in Scotland in collaboration with Stirling Council.
2. **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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